

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 479

(Senator McCray)

Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore Police Department - Reporting on Vehicle Accidents

This bill requires the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) to require each law enforcement officer who responds to a vehicle accident to complete an accident report. The accident report must contain sufficiently detailed information to disclose the cause of the reported accident, the conditions existing at the time of the accident, identification of the persons and vehicles involved in the accident, and any damage to public property or infrastructure as a result of the accident, as specified. BPD must provide a copy of each accident report to the Baltimore City Department of Transportation and the Baltimore City Law Department.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Although Baltimore City did not respond to repeated requests for information regarding the potential fiscal effect of the bill, it is assumed that BPD can implement the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The driver of a vehicle involved in an accident that results only in damage to an attended vehicle or other attended property must immediately stop the vehicle as close as possible to the scene of the accident, without obstructing traffic more than necessary. The driver must give his name, his address, and the registration number of the vehicle he is driving and, on request, exhibit his license to drive, if it is available, to the driver,

occupant of, or person attending any vehicle or other property damaged in the accident. In addition, on request, the driver must exhibit his license to drive, if it is available, to any police officer who is at the scene of or otherwise is investigating the accident. If a police officer is not present and none of the specified persons is in a condition to receive the information to which the person otherwise would be entitled, the driver, after fulfilling to the extent possible every other specified requirement, immediately must report the accident to the nearest office of an authorized police authority and give the required information. A violator is subject to imprisonment for up to two months and/or a fine of up to \$500.

The driver of a vehicle involved in an accident that results in damage to an unattended vehicle or other unattended property immediately must stop the vehicle as close as possible to the scene of the accident, without obstructing traffic more than necessary. The driver must attempt to locate the driver, owner, or person in charge of the damaged vehicle or other property and notify him of (1) his name and address; (2) the registration number of the vehicle he is driving; and (3) the name and address of the owner of that vehicle. If the driver, owner, or person in charge of the damaged vehicle or other property cannot be located, the driver must leave in a conspicuous, secure place in or on the damaged vehicle or other property a written notice providing the required information. A violator is subject to imprisonment for up to two months and/or a fine of up to \$500.

In either form of accident described above, the driver must also provide information regarding the name and address of the insurance carrier or other provider of security, policy or other identifying number of the insurance or other security, and the name and address of the local insurance producer or local office of the insurance carrier or other provider of security, if it is available.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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