

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 546

(Delegate Arentz, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Pedestrians - Kent Island Drawbridge - Fishing Prohibition

This bill prohibits a pedestrian from catching or attempting to catch fish by any means on or under the Maryland Route 18 Kent Island Drawbridge over the Kent Narrows in Queen Anne’s County. A violation is a misdemeanor subject to a maximum fine of \$500 (the standard statutory penalty for violations of the Maryland Vehicle Law). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues to the extent that citations are issued under the bill. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources, as discussed below.

Local Effect: Enforcement can be handled with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Vehicle Law prohibits specified actions by pedestrians in roadways or highways (and, in some cases, median dividers and intersections), primarily relating to soliciting a ride, employment, business, or, in specified counties, money or donations, from the occupant of a vehicle. In general, a violation is a misdemeanor subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The prepayment penalty established by the District Court for these offenses is \$70.

State Expenditures: The State Highway Administration (SHA) anticipates installing signage informing individuals of the bill's prohibition at an estimated cost of \$2,000 and further advises that, to the extent fencing is needed in order to ensure compliance, related costs may total an estimated \$10,000. However, the Department of Legislative Services advises that any such costs beyond those that can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources are at the discretion of SHA and are not specifically required by the bill.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1117 of 2021, as amended, passed the House and received a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee; no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: SB 981 (Senator Hershey) - Rules.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2022
rh/aad Third Reader - March 10, 2022

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