

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 149

(Senator Kagan)

Finance

Rental Vehicle Agreements - Disclosures - Spare Tires

This bill requires a motor vehicle rental company to disclose in a rental agreement whether a rental vehicle is equipped with a spare tire. The bill also requires a renter to initial the disclosure before renting a rental vehicle.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: “Motor vehicle rental company” means a person that is in the business of providing motor vehicles to the public under a rental agreement for a period of 180 days or less. A “rental agreement” is a written agreement containing the terms and conditions that govern the use of a rental vehicle provided by a motor vehicle rental company under State law.

The Maryland Vehicle Law governs rental vehicles and details the requirements, rules, and procedures for motor vehicle rental companies operating in the State. For example, a vehicle may only be rented to an individual who holds a legal driver’s license, and the company must keep detailed records about each individual to whom a vehicle is rented. There are no current laws governing the disclosure of spare tires in rental vehicles.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division); Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2022

fnu2/ljm

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510