

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 552 (Delegate Glenn, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Baltimore City - Prohibition on Sale of Unlawful Vehicles

This bill prohibits, in Baltimore City, the sale, or offering for sale, of any vehicle that may not be used in the city under any State or local law. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to maximum penalties of 60 days imprisonment and/or a \$2,000 fine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal revenue and expenditure increase due to the bill's penalty provisions. The bill's provisions could be enforced with existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill's provisions could be enforced with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: If State law authorizes the sale or transfer of a vehicle, a person may sell that vehicle in Baltimore City even though its use is prohibited by the city government.

Background: Under the Baltimore City Code, a person is prohibited from driving or riding any dirt bike or any unregistered motorcycle or similar vehicle on any public property that is located in Baltimore City or any property that is owned or regulated by Baltimore City. No service station in Baltimore City may sell, transfer, or dispense motor fuel into any dirt bike or any unregistered motorcycle or similar vehicle being used in Baltimore City.

Under the Baltimore City Code, dirt bike means any motorcycle or similar vehicle that is not registered under the Maryland Vehicle Law. This includes minibikes, dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles with three or four wheels and any other similar vehicle that is not required to be registered under the Maryland Vehicle Law. Tractors, snowblowers, lawn mowers, wheelchairs, or golf carts and any vehicle owned by a federal, State, or local instrumentality are exempt from the city provisions.

State Revenues: General fund revenues could increase minimally as a result of the bill's monetary penalty provision from cases heard in the District Court.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase minimally as a result of the bill's incarceration penalty due to more people being committed to Division of Correction (DOC) facilities. The number of people convicted of this proposed crime is expected to be minimal.

Persons sentenced to a term of one year or less in Baltimore City are generally incarcerated in a DOC facility. Currently, the DOC average total cost per inmate, including overhead, is estimated at \$2,600 per month. This bill alone, however, should not create the need for additional beds, personnel, or facilities. Excluding overhead, the average cost of housing a new DOC inmate (including medical care and variable costs) is \$526 per month. Excluding medical care, the average variable costs total \$148 per month.

Local Expenditures: The Baltimore City Police Department reports that existing resources could be used to enforce the bill's provisions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

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mcp/hlb

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