

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 890 (Senator Stone)
 Judicial Proceedings

Public Safety - Department of State Police - Yellow Dot Program

This bill establishes a Yellow Dot Program in the Department of State Police to provide a means of alerting emergency responders to important health and other information in the event a program participant is involved in a motor vehicle emergency and is unable to communicate.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$144,600 in FY 2013. Out-year costs are assumed to remain relatively constant beginning in FY 2014. Revenues are not affected.

| (in dollars) | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 |
|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Revenues | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GF Expenditure | 144,600 | 18,900 | 18,900 | 18,900 | 18,900 |
| Net Effect | (\$144,600) | (\$18,900) | (\$18,900) | (\$18,900) | (\$18,900) |

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The State Police must design, implement, and administer the Yellow Dot Program. Under the program, a participant, by affixing a yellow dot decal to a vehicle, consents to a search of the vehicle's glove compartment or glove box by emergency responders for specified health information forms. The State Police must

publicize the program and distribute program materials in cooperation with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

Current Law: A Yellow Dot Program has not been established in Maryland.

Background: The first Yellow Dot Program was initiated in Connecticut in 2002. Alabama was the first state to institute a program statewide. Similar programs currently exist statewide in Utah, as well as Rock Island County, Illinois and Scott County, Iowa. New initiatives for similar programs are pending in New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Washington. Some of these bills are aimed at senior drivers.

State Fiscal Effect: The State Police estimates that there are about 129,100 privately owned vehicles in the State that may seek inclusion in the Yellow Dot Program. Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase by \$144,600 in fiscal 2013, which is based on a total cost of \$1.12 for materials for each driver in the program – including decals, health advisory forms, and easily identifiable yellow envelopes for a vehicle’s glove compartment or glove box. Beginning in fiscal 2014, the State Police estimates that about 16,900 new drivers may seek to join the program annually. Health advisory forms will be made available at no cost from the State Police and MVA websites. Program staffing will be handled with existing State Police staff.

Any future costs for the State Police or MVA for program advertising or promotions are assumed to be able to be handled with the existing budgeted resources of both agencies. Any potential efficiencies for State or local emergency responders as a result of the program cannot be reliably estimated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 230 (Delegate K. Kelly, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety, National Conference of State Legislatures, Caroline and Montgomery counties, Baltimore City, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2012
ncs/hlb

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