

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1148
Judiciary

(Delegates Hornberger and Arikan)

Vehicle Laws - Military Surplus Vehicles - Registration and Operation

This bill establishes standards and procedures for the registration of a “military surplus vehicle,” which the bill defines as a wheeled, multipurpose vehicle (including a trailer) that (1) was manufactured for military use by or under the direction of the U.S. Armed Forces or the armed forces of another country and (2) subsequently was authorized for sale to civilians. The bill requires all vehicles that meet these criteria to be registered as a military surplus vehicle and establishes a one-time \$51 registration fee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues may decrease minimally, as discussed below. TTF expenditures are not materially affected.

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

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In applying for registration under the bill, the owner of a military surplus vehicle must submit with the application a certification that the vehicle will be operated only:

- in off-highway events, exhibitions, on-highway club activities, parades, tours, and other similar events;
- for transportation to and from such events;

- on occasional pleasure trips; or
- to facilitate the sale or maintenance of the vehicle.

The owner must further certify that the vehicle will not be operated:

- for general daily transportation;
- primarily for the transportation of passengers or property on highways;
- for employment;
- for transportation to and from employment or school or;
- for commercial purposes.

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must (1) assign a distinguishing number to the vehicle and (2) issue to its owner a stamped or special plate bearing the distinguishing number. The owner must attach the stamped or special plate to the vehicle as required.

An applicant for the registration of a military surplus vehicle must provide acceptable proof to MVA that the military surplus vehicle has passed a safety inspection. (MVA, in consultation with military surplus vehicle owners in the State, must develop a safety inspection and a safety inspection process for the vehicles.)

A military surplus vehicle registered under a different registration class before the bill's effective date (October 1, 2020) may continue to be registered under that class. However, if a military surplus vehicle registered under a different class is transferred to a new owner, the vehicle must be registered pursuant to the bill.

Current Law/Background: There is no vehicle class under State law for military surplus vehicles. The listing of vehicle registration fees and the corresponding class may be found on [MVA's website](#).

State Revenues: The number of vehicles already registered in the State that may qualify as military surplus vehicles cannot be determined. However, depending on the number of such vehicles, TTF revenues may be affected, as the bill authorizes such vehicles to permanently register by paying a one-time \$51 fee.

All other classes of vehicles pay both initial and renewal registration fees. Therefore, to the extent that vehicles already registered under a different registration class choose to instead register as a military surplus vehicle, TTF revenues likely decrease. However, the number of vehicles expected to meet the bill's criteria is assumed to be minimal. Therefore, the impact on TTF revenues is likely minimal.

To the extent that the bill encourages the purchase of military surplus vehicles that would otherwise not occur, TTF revenues may also increase negligibly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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af/ljm

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