

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1380 (Delegate Lafferty)
Environment and Transportation

State Highway Administration - Access to State Highways - Consideration of
Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Public Transportation Activity

This bill requires a person that applies for a permit from the State Highway Administration (SHA) to construct an access point that connects a commercial or industrial property to a State highway to submit specified information related to pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation activity in the area. The same information must be included when an applicant submits a development plan or traffic impact study as part of the permit process. The information submitted must include, among other things, data on the impact the proposed construction will have on pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation activity in the area and the permit applicant's plans to mitigate that impact.

Fiscal Summary

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

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

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: A person that seeks to construct an access point that connects a commercial or industrial property to a State highway that carries an average traffic volume of more than 2,000 vehicles a day must obtain a permit from SHA. If SHA finds it expedient for traffic safety, it may (1) limit the width and location of any access point by any method it considers desirable or (2) deny an abutting property owner all new access

along a State highway if reasonable access to another public road is available. Such a denial is an exercise of police power and does not require compensation.

Current regulations establish various standards and specifications that must be met regarding such access points. Among other things, in general, all entrances must be channelized for their entire frontage, and all improvements must provide for increased safety and access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic in a manner acceptable to SHA. All work is subject to periodic inspection and final approval by SHA.

Small Business Effect: Any small business that seeks a permit affected by the bill must submit specified information to SHA as part of the application process. If that information is not readily available and/or not already incorporated into an applicant's proposal, an applicant may be required to spend more of its time and money gathering the required information and/or modifying its proposal to address the bill's requirements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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