

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 28

(Senator Simonaire, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards - Notation for Surviving Spouses of Veterans

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to ensure that the driver’s license or identification card of an applicant who presents acceptable documentation to MVA includes a notation that the applicant is the surviving spouse of a veteran. Accordingly, the application for a driver’s license and for an identification card must allow an applicant to indicate surviving spouse status and to consent to being contacted by the State regarding eligibility for benefits as the surviving spouse of a veteran. MVA is required to electronically transmit appropriate information about an applicant who consents to being contacted to any appropriate Executive Branch agency, subject to existing restrictions on public access to this information.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund expenditures increase by \$107,500 in FY 2019 only for reprogramming changes. Workloads may increase minimally for certain State agencies due to increased interagency communication. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	107,500	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$107,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The contribution of the armed forces is recognized through several provisions within the Maryland Vehicle Law. Specifically, Maryland has exemptions from registration fees for veterans with certain disabilities and vehicles owned by national veterans' organizations as well as special registration plates for honorably discharged veterans; recipients of individually earned, combat-related, armed forces medals; and recipients of a U.S. Department of Defense Gold Star indicating status as a surviving spouse, parent, or next of kin of a member of the armed forces who lost his/her life in combat.

Chapters 50 and 51 of 2012 required MVA to offer a veteran designation on a driver's license or identification card for qualifying veterans. That designation may be added by visiting any MVA branch. Proper documentation is required in order to obtain the designation.

State Expenditures: MVA advises that reprogramming costs totaling \$107,500 in fiscal 2019 are necessary to add the spousal designation to the front of the driver's license. Programming changes are also necessary for MVA to capture and maintain appropriate documentation. Internal reprogramming changes can be handled with existing resources.

To the extent that the bill results in an increase in awareness of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) benefits and services and other State programs designed to benefit surviving spouses, general, special, and federal fund expenditures, as well as MDVA and other agency workloads, may increase.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510