

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 177
Finance

(Senator Kagan)

Rental Vehicles - Spare Tires and Tire Repair Tools

This bill requires a motor vehicle rental company to provide a spare tire and tire repair tools – including a vehicle jack, tire iron, portable tire inflator, and wheel wedges – with each rental vehicle but only if these items were included with the initial sale of the vehicle (or are generally included in new vehicles of the year, make, model, and style of the rental vehicle). If a spare tire or tire repair tools are not provided, the motor vehicle rental company must (1) disclose in the rental agreement that no such items are equipped and (2) require a renter to initial the disclosure before renting the vehicle. The bill’s requirements only apply to Class A (passenger) and Class M (multipurpose) vehicles.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: “Motor vehicle rental company” means a person that is in the business of providing motor vehicles to the public under a rental agreement for a period of 180 days or less. A “rental agreement” is a written agreement containing the terms and conditions that govern the use of a rental vehicle provided by a motor vehicle rental company under State law.

The Maryland Vehicle Law governs rental vehicles and details the requirements, rules, and procedures for motor vehicle rental companies operating in the State. For example, a vehicle may only be rented to an individual who holds a legal driver's license, and the company must keep detailed records about each individual to whom a vehicle is rented. There are no current laws governing the provision of or disclosure about spare tires and tire repair tools in rental vehicles.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 149 of 2022 and SB 377 of 2021.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division); Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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km/ljm

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