

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

Senate Bill 584

(Senator Simonaire, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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Motor Vehicles - Parking - Armed Forces Special Registration Plates

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This bill prohibits a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, regulation, or policy requiring the payment of a metered parking fee if the motor vehicle has an individually earned, combat-related Armed Forces special registration plate or a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Gold Star special registration plate issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. State finances and operations are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local government revenues may decline minimally in any jurisdictions that own and operate parking meters, as discussed below. Any changes to enforcement can be handled with existing resources. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:**

*Power of Political Subdivisions and State Agencies to Regulate Parking*

Generally, any State agency authorized by law and any political subdivision of the State may adopt ordinances or regulations that:

- regulate the parking of vehicles;
- provide for the impounding of vehicles parked in violation of the ordinances or regulations;
- regulate the towing of vehicles from publicly owned and privately owned parking lots; and
- provide for the issuance of a citation by an officer for a violation of an ordinance or regulation that is adopted pursuant to this authorization.

*Special Registration Plates for Recipients of an Individually Earned, Combat-related, Armed Forces Medal and Recipients of the U.S. Department of Defense Gold Star*

MVA special registration plates may be issued to a recipient of (1) an individually earned, combat-related armed services medal and (2) DOD Gold Star for surviving spouses, parents, and next-of-kin of members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in combat. The applicant must provide proof of the receipt of the medal or gold star. The applicant must pay an additional fee for the registration plates. The registration plates must contain an emblem or logo that depicts the medal or gold star awarded. Registration plates for an individually earned combat-related Armed Forces medal (except on plates issued for motorcycles) must also have words describing the medal printed across the bottom of the plates. The special registration plates may be used for a Class A (passenger) vehicle, a Class E (truck) vehicle with one ton of capacity or less, a Class M (multipurpose) vehicle, or a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Any local governments that operate parking meters may need to modify enforcement procedures so that such vehicles are not improperly cited. Although local revenues may decline (as fewer persons are subject to parking meter fees under the bill), the magnitude of that revenue reduction cannot be determined without additional information (*e.g.*, number of jurisdictions in the State that operate their own parking meters, the amount of fees collected annually, etc.).

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore, Charles, Garrett, and Howard counties; towns of Bel Air and Leonardtown; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2024  
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