

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 846 (Delegate Vogt, *et al.*)
 Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicle Administration - Commercial Driver's License - Program for Veterans and Service Members (Troops to Trucks)

This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to establish a program to assist veterans and members of the military who are transitioning out of military service to obtain a commercial driver’s license (CDL) and find employment. As part of the program, MVA must waive the required skill test for those who meet the eligibility criteria established by MVA, consistent with federal law. MVA must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by \$54,600 in FY 2016, which accounts for the bill’s effective date, and by more than \$74,400 annually thereafter for MVA to hire one program administrator to implement the bill. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	54,600	74,400	77,900	81,600	85,400
Net Effect	(\$54,600)	(\$74,400)	(\$77,900)	(\$81,600)	(\$85,400)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Vehicle Law generally prohibits the issuance of a CDL until the individual has passed the knowledge and skill tests for driving a commercial motor vehicle that complies with the federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. However, MVA is required to adopt regulations to waive the skill test in a manner consistent with federal law.

Beginning January 1, 2013, MVA began waiving the skill tests for military service members who meet specified criteria and are trying to obtain a Maryland Class A or B CDL. The waiver may be granted to an applicant who (1) either is still on an active-duty status or was discharged within the previous 12 months and (2) holds (or held) a valid military operator's permit/license and wants to obtain a Maryland CDL of the same class as the military operator's permit/license.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) projects that the population of veterans in Maryland in 2015 is 428,861, which is about 7% of the State's population. The MDVA website advertises numerous programs, jobs, and training programs for veterans, including the expedited professional licensing benefits offered under the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 (Chapters 154 and 155).

State Expenditures: TTF expenditures increase by \$54,590 in fiscal 2016, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2015 effective date, and by more than \$74,396 annually thereafter for MVA to hire one program administrator to initiate and operate the program required by the bill. The administrator is responsible for communicating with CDL applicants and ensuring that the applicants are able to successfully participate in the new program and eventually find employment. The administrator may also be involved in developing the regulations required by the bill. This estimate includes a salary, fringe benefits, and ongoing operating expenses.

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
Position	1	
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$54,151	\$73,805
Operating Expenses	<u>439</u>	<u>591</u>
Total MVA Expenditures	\$54,590	\$74,396

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, SB 671 (Senator Young, *et al.* - Judicial Proceedings) is different.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2015
md/ljm

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