

R. Cennamo

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cennamo, Chief	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4941		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #18-0251 Obstructing Traffic in an Intersection – \$125 Fine		

DATE:

TO

June 14, 2018

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

Attention: Ms. Natawna Austin

We are herein reporting on City Council bill 18-0251, the purpose of which is to expand the instances subject to the \$250 fine on commercial vehicles obstructing traffic to any instance where free flow of traffic is impeded. Currently, these violations are limited to an intersection or a marked crosswalk. Additionally, the legislation proposes a \$125 fine on any non-commercial vehicle obstructing or impeding the free flow of traffic within an intersection or a marked crosswalk.

Background

The number of traffic violations related to commercial vehicles obstructing/impeding the flow of traffic has increased on an annual basis. A total of 457 fines for violating existing law have been issued since Fiscal 2015, increasing from 28 to 215 as of the end of May of Fiscal 2018. It is unclear if the trend is a result of more scofflaws or if it is due to stricter enforcement.

Year	# of Violations	Total Billed (\$250)
Fiscal 2015	28	\$7,056
Fiscal 2016	40	\$10,080
Fiscal 2017	174	\$43,848
Fiscal 2018	215	\$54,180
Total	457	\$115,164

Analysis

The impact of this legislation is difficult to project due to the potential for behavior change and enforcement. By expanding the instances subject to violations for obstructing or impeding the free flow of traffic, we conservatively estimate that the number of fines issued to commercial vehicles would increase by 10%.

Additionally, we estimate that 602 citations would be issued for violation of the new \$125 fine on non-commercial vehicles, based on the 2.7 ratio of registered non-commercial over commercial vehicles. Based on Fiscal 2018 data, the following table summarizes the estimated fiscal impact of CC Bill 18-0251:

Fiscal 2018	# of Violations	Total Billed
Existing Violations	215	\$54,180
New Commercial Violations	22	\$5,544
New Non-Commercial @\$125	602	\$75,250
Est'd Impact of CCB-18-0251	624	\$80,794

Operational Concerns

The implementation of the new \$125 fine would require the City to redesign and change the citation forms currently in use by traffic agents in their hand-held electronic devices and approximately 3,600 citation books used by police officers and others. Additionally, the City would be required to reprogram existing systems. These changes would affect the Department of Finance, BCIT, and the City's Print Shop.

Based on recent experience, the Department of Finance recommends that, if passed, the implementation of the proposed legislation to take effect in 120 days after enactment, not 30 days as proposed.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 18-0251 upon considerations of the proposed enactment.

cc: Henry Raymond
Kyron Banks