

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 70 (Delegate Healey)
 Environment and Transportation

State Highway Administration - Traffic Calming Devices - Study

This bill requires the State Highway Administration (SHA) to study and make recommendations on the implementation of a consistent statewide policy for the use of traffic calming devices on highway in the State. By December 1, 2026, SHA must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by an estimated \$12,500 in FY 2026 and \$62,500 in FY 2027. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	12,500	62,500	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$12,500)	(\$62,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

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

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The study must include:

- research on best practices for the implementation and use of traffic calming devices;
- recommended guidelines for determining the circumstances under which a traffic calming device should be used;

- recommendations on providing technical support to counties and municipalities on the implementation and use of traffic calming devices; and
- a list of academic, nonprofit, or other entities that could provide assistance in the development and implementation of a statewide policy on the use of traffic calming devices.

Current Law: “Traffic calming device” means a physical highway measure used to reduce vehicle speed and increase safety for bicyclists, motorists, and pedestrians; it includes a speed bump, a raised crosswalk, a traffic circle, and a narrowed road. In consultation with appropriate county and municipal authorities, SHA must compile best practices for siting, constructing, and maintaining traffic calming devices that address the engineering and design of traffic calming devices and the costs and benefits of various methods of traffic calming.

SHA must coordinate and act as a clearinghouse for best practices for siting, constructing, and maintaining traffic calming devices, and based on the best practices, publish and periodically update information about the best practices, including the estimated costs of construction for each traffic calming device. SHA must provide information on the best practices to counties and municipalities upon request.

State Expenditures: In the execution of its duties, the Maryland Department of Transportation and SHA often engage expert consultants to handle research, evaluations, studies, and staffing duties. Even though SHA already has publicly available documentation on the use of traffic calming devices on State highways, in order to implement the bill, SHA anticipates engaging a consultant to conduct the required study, which will focus specifically on the implementation of traffic calming devices. As a result, TTF expenditures increase by an estimated \$12,500 in fiscal 2026 and \$62,500 in fiscal 2027 to hire a consultant to conduct the required study.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2026
jg/lgc

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