

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1287 (Delegate Fulton, et al.)  
Judiciary

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**Law Enforcement Agencies -  
Disposition of Abandoned, Confiscated, and Recovered Property**

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This bill requires local law enforcement agencies to establish regulations regarding disposition of abandoned, confiscated, or recovered property. It also specifies the content of regulations for the disposition of such property by sheriffs and the State Police.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The requirements of this bill can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** Potential indeterminate effect on local expenditures.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Expenditures:** This bill requires local sheriffs and law enforcement agencies to establish regulations that require the sheriff to return personal property to the owner after 30 days unless the owner is unknown, the property is subject to forfeiture under specified weapons or drug laws, or is needed as evidence. The cost of adopting and implementing regulations could be at least partially offset by reduced storage costs for held property. Any such change in expenditures cannot be reliably estimated at this time. Baltimore City reports the bill could divert resources from law enforcement to returning property.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Baltimore City, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 1996

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