

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1342 (Delegate Fulton, *et al.*)
Judiciary

State's Attorneys - Confiscated Weapons - Return

This bill requires a State's Attorney to return any weapon confiscated from a defendant in a criminal case if the defendant is acquitted or the charge is dismissed or quashed. The return of the weapon must be made within 48 hours after the verdict is announced or the charge is dismissed or quashed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal revenue loss as discussed below. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal loss to small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Revenues: Some local jurisdictions currently sell unreclaimed confiscated weapons to gun dealers. Since this bill requires the return of these weapons, revenues from such sales would be lost. Such a decrease in revenues is assumed to be minimal. Most jurisdictions, like Baltimore City, destroy such weapons.

Small Business Effect: Gun dealers that are small businesses and that currently benefit from the sale of confiscated weapons by local jurisdictions would no longer be able to make such purchases. It is assumed that such an effect on an individual business or the industry would be minimal.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Carroll County, Harford County, Prince

George's County, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 1997

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