

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 794 (Delegate D. Murphy, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Referred to Judicial Proceedings

**Vehicle Laws - Driving While License Suspended or Revoked for Alcohol and Drug
Related Driving Offenses - Vehicle Impoundment or Immobilization**

This amended bill authorizes a court to order a police department to impound or immobilize a vehicle if the owner was driving it with a suspended or revoked license. The vehicle may be impounded or immobilized for not more than 180 days and must be owned by only one person. The owner is responsible for all actual costs resulting from the immobilizing, towing, preserving, and storing of the impounded vehicle. The vehicle must remain under the custody of the police until all costs have been paid. If a court orders impoundment or immobilization, the appropriate police department must, as soon as possible, send a notice with specified information by certified mail to each registered owner of the vehicle and each secured party.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The vehicle owner is responsible for any impoundment, or immobilization, or notification costs.

Local Effect: None. The vehicle owner is responsible for any impoundment, or immobilization, or notification costs.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: Certain police departments do not own tow trucks or have the facilities to store an impounded or immobilized vehicle. Thus, to the extent that a police department utilizes the services of a towing or storage company, these small businesses could realize increased revenues.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court), Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration), Department of State Police, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1997

brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 26, 1997

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