

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 463 (Delegate Mandel. *et al.*)

Judiciary

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**Vehicle Laws - Driving While License Suspended or Revoked - Vehicle  
Impoundment**

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This bill allows a court, as a part of a sentence or as a condition of probation, to order the impoundment or immobilization of a vehicle owned by an individual convicted of driving with a suspended or revoked license. The impoundment or immobilization may not be for more than 30 days. Under existing law, the court may only order the impoundment or immobilization if the owner's license was suspended or revoked due to drunk and drugged driving violations.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any costs for towing and impoundment services that are provided by the State Police will be reimbursed by the owner of the vehicle.

**Local Effect:** None. Any costs for towing and impoundment services that are provided by local police departments will be reimbursed by the owner of the vehicle.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Small Business Effect:** There were 24,534 violations of driving with suspended or revoked licenses in fiscal 1997. To the extent that courts order the impoundment or immobilization of vehicles, small businesses that provide towing services and immobilization devices could experience a significant increase in business. There are an estimated 500 towing companies in the State. It is assumed that the majority of such companies are small businesses. There is no information available on the number of businesses that provide immobilization devices.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation (Motor Vehicle Administration),  
Judiciary (The District Court), Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of  
Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 1998

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