Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 99 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)
(Departmental - State Police)

Judiciary

Explosives - Forfeiture of Vehicle, Vessel, or Aircraft

This departmental bill adds the State as an eligible governmental body to receive forfeited vehicles, vessels, or aircraft used in the illegal concealment, conveyance, or transport of explosives. The bill also clarifies that the jurisdiction to which forfeiture must be ordered is based on which jurisdiction initiated the investigation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal revenue increase. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential minimal revenue decrease. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: The Department of State Police has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Violations involving explosives are handled by the Office of the State Fire Marshal within the Department of State Police. Current law allows the proceeds from such forfeiture proceedings to be given to the county, including Baltimore City, where the action was initiated. This bill allows the State Fire Marshal to also deposit such proceeds with the State's general fund. Because only two such instances had the potential for seizure of a vehicle by the Fire Marshal in fiscal 1998, any additional revenue to the general fund arising from this bill is assumed to be minimal.

The bill would have no measurable effect on the operations or finances of the District Court.

Local Revenues: If proceeds from forfeiture proceedings were to be deposited to the State general fund under the provisions of this bill, it is assumed that such a revenue gain for the State could be considered to be to the detriment of the county that might have received those proceeds absent this bill. Any such potential revenue loss is assumed to be minimal.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (District Court), Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 1, 1999
dmm\jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 18, 1999

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510