

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 479 (Senator Teitelbaum. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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

This bill allows a court, as a sentence, 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.

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.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: There were 26,682 citations issued for driving with suspended or revoked licenses in fiscal 1998. 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.

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 2, 1999

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