

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 532 (Senator McFadden, *et al.*)  
(Baltimore City Administration)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Baltimore City - Abandoned Property - Statute of Limitations and Damages**

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This bill provides that a lawsuit filed against Baltimore City for improper taking of abandoned property must be filed within three years from the date that a court vests title to the abandoned property in the city. The damages awarded to a person in such a case are limited to the fair market value of the abandoned property at the time of the taking.

The bill may not be applied to any cause of action arising before the bill's October 1, 2000 effective date.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill could preclude and/or limit damages amounts in lawsuits for improper taking of abandoned property, but is not expected to have a significant impact on Baltimore City's operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** There is no statutorily-prescribed statute of limitations or damages limitation applicable to actions for improper taking of abandoned property.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Information regarding the number of lawsuits filed against Baltimore

City for improper taking of abandoned property is not readily available. In any event, the bill is not expected to have a significant impact on Baltimore City Circuit Court's caseload.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 701 (Delegate Marriott, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2000  
drg/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 22, 2000  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 13, 2000

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