

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 444 (Delegate Bobo. *et al.*)

Judiciary

---

**Firearms - Disposal Requirements for Law Enforcement Agencies**

---

This bill requires a State or local law enforcement agency to destroy unnecessary, unneeded, or forfeited firearms, including assault pistols, assault weapons, handguns, short-barreled shotguns, short-barreled rifles, and machine guns. The bill establishes exceptions to the destruction requirement, including a firearm retained by a law enforcement agency for official use, a firearm that may be or is being used as evidence, and a firearm that a retiring State police officer is allowed to keep or acquire.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The requirements of this bill could be handled by affected State agencies with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** Potential significant expenditure increases in some jurisdictions. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** While some seized weapons are allowed to be destroyed, there is no requirement to do so.

**Local Expenditures:** Most jurisdictions surveyed by the Department of Legislative Services reported that this bill generally codifies current practice or local laws. However, Anne Arundel County reports that this bill, in a department-wide upgrade of weapons, could cost the county \$65,000 to destroy old weapons and not allow for a trade-in value on a new

purchase. The cost of upgrading the weapons is estimated to be about \$390,000. These costs are based on an estimated \$100 each to dispose of 650 covered weapons, and a purchase price of \$600 for each of 650 new weapons. The county advises that the department-wide upgrade in fiscal 1998 realized “a trade-in value equal to the cost of the new weapons” as a result of negotiations with the seller. It is not known how many other jurisdictions might fall within the same such circumstance.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, Garrett County, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2000  
nnscjr

---

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

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