

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 212 (Harford County Delegation)
Judiciary

Harford County - Sheriff - Disposal of Property - Time Limitations

This bill decreases from 1 year to 90 days the minimum time period that the Harford County Sheriff must possess abandoned, confiscated, or recovered property in order to sell or dispose of the property.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County expenditures could decrease by approximately \$900 annually beginning in FY 2002. Harford County revenues could increase by a minimal amount beginning in FY 2002.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Sheriff of Harford County must possess abandoned, confiscated, or recovered property for at least one year before selling or disposing the property.

Background: The time required for sheriff's offices to possess abandoned, confiscated, or recovered property varies in each jurisdiction. Baltimore City and Baltimore County are required to hold property for 30 days before sale or disposition; Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County are required to hold property for 60 days; Prince George's County and Howard County are required to hold property for 90 days. The Maryland State Police are required to hold property for six months before sale.

Local Fiscal Effect: Harford County expenditures could decrease by approximately \$900 annually as the sheriff's office would no longer need to lease space to store confiscated, abandoned, or recovered property. Nearly 15,000 items are stored in inventory by the Sheriff of Harford County and approximately 3,800 items are disposed of every year. Assuming the Sheriff of Harford County begins selling property in a shortened time frame county revenues could increase. Harford County advises that two prior auctions raised \$12,500 in August 1997 and \$7,000 in January 2000. It is anticipated that the shorter time requirement would result in more frequent auctions and allow for revenues every fiscal year. Annual revenues from auctions are estimated to be approximately \$4,500 per year under this bill. In addition, the Sheriff's Office of Harford County donates bicycles eligible for disposal to underprivileged children.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill, HB 204, was introduced in the 1999 session. It was reported unfavorably from the Judiciary Committee.

Cross File: SB 231 (Harford County Senators) – Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Harford County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 30, 2001
ef/jr

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