

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 978

(Delegate Niemann)

Environmental Matters

Finance

Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing Practices - Extension

This bill reestablishes the Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing Practices and extends its termination date from May 31, 2009 to December 31, 2009. The bill requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2009.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland Department of Transportation can continue to provide staff support and prepare the required report with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 514 of 2008 established the Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing Practices to study:

- State and local laws governing towing practices, including the storage and disposal of towed vehicles;
- the costs, benefits, and feasibility of State licensure or registration for the towing industry;

- issues related to notice given by a private property owner to the motor vehicle owner before towing;
- issues related to notice given by a police department or a private tower to the vehicle owner, a secured party, or an insurer of an abandoned motor vehicle in police custody;
- issues related to State preemption of local authority governing the towing or removal of vehicles; and
- any other issues that are considered relevant to motor vehicle towing practices in the State.

A report of the task force findings and recommendations was due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2008. The task force terminates May 31, 2009.

Background: Although the task force met several times in 2008, it did not issue a report.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2009
ncs/ljm

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