

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 198 (Delegate Ebersole)
Environment and Transportation

Vehicle Laws – Towing – Clearing and Disposal of Debris

This bill requires a person who undertakes the towing or removal of a vehicle from a roadway following an accident or other incident to (1) clear off the roadway any debris that is on the roadway as a result of the accident or other incident and (2) ensure that any large debris is disposed of in accordance with applicable law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any impact on State finances or operations is likely negligible, as similar requirements already exist under State law.

Local Effect: Any impact on local government finances or operations is likely negligible, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Any person removing a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway must also remove any glass (or other injurious substance) dropped from the vehicle.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is responsible for more than 5,200 miles or approximately 16,800 lane miles of road, 2,500 bridges, 3,500 small stream crossing structures, and 80 miles of sound barriers in the State. It also has responsibility for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining these roads and bridges to safety and performance standards while considering sociological, ecological, and economic concerns. SHA must keep all State highways clear of brush, snow, and other debris.

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore, Charles, and Frederick counties report that local policies in those jurisdictions require debris removal by tow truck operators. In addition, Montgomery County notes that, because State law already requires debris removal following an accident, there is no fiscal impact to the county.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; City of College Park; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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