# Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

#### 127 th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

77 South High Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6136 \$\diamoldar{Phone}\$: (614) 466-3615

\$\diamoldar{Phone}\$: http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/

BILL: S.B. 129 DATE: April 20, 2007

STATUS: As Introduced SPONSOR: Sen. Schuler

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: No — Permissive

CONTENTS: Authorizes local law enforcement agencies and fire departments to remove motor vehicles

from the roadway after an accident

### State Fiscal Highlights

No direct fiscal effect on the state.

## Local Fiscal Highlights

Permitting local law enforcement officials and fire departments to remove a vehicle or its contents from a roadway
after an accident without prior consent of the vehicle's owner, and providing immunity to local law enforcement
agencies and fire personnel for the removal of damaged or inoperable vehicles from roadways would cause no
direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

### **Detailed Fiscal Analysis**

The bill permits local law enforcement agencies and fire departments to remove any motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property from the roadway after a vehicle accident without prior consent of the owner. Any law enforcement or fire department official that participates in the removal of any such motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property would not be liable in civil damages for any injury or loss that results from the removal of that motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property. This bill does not apply to any private tow truck operator or towing company. Nor does the immunity apply if moving a motor vehicle, its cargo, or personal property causes the release of a hazardous material or causes structural damage to the roadway.

Since the bill offers immunity to law enforcement and fire personnel, there are no potential legal costs that can be linked to this legislation. The bill does have the potential to shorten the length of time certain law enforcement and fire department officials spend at an accident site. It could also help reduce the amount of time that a roadway is blocked due to an accident.

LSC fiscal staff: Terry Steele, Budget Analyst