

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
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BILL: **Sub. S.B. 129**

DATE: **May 19, 2008**

STATUS: As Reported by Senate Judiciary--Civil Justice

SPONSOR: **Sen. Schuler**

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No** — **Permissive**

CONTENTS: Authorizes designated persons to remove motor vehicles from the roadway after accidents

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill permits local law enforcement officers, State Highway Patrol troopers, fire department chiefs, and any private tow truck operator or towing company authorized by these public safety officials or the Department of Transportation, to remove motor vehicles and materials from the roadway after a vehicle accident without prior consent of the vehicle owner. The bill also generally provides that employees of the Department of Transportation, local and state law enforcement officers, and chiefs of fire departments and firefighters who authorize or participate in the removal of these items are not liable in civil damages for injury, death, or loss that results from removing damaged vehicles. Such immunity also would apply to private tow truck companies and operators authorized by the officials noted above. Although the bill appears to have no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions, one possible outcome would be to reduce the amount of time that law enforcement and fire department personnel spend at accident sites, as well as reduce the amount of time that a roadway is blocked due to an accident.

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