

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6800
BILL NUMBER: SB 211

DATE PREPARED: Dec 17, 1998
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Allocation of safety belt violation judgments.

FISCAL ANALYST: Mark Bucherl
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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that \$5 of each \$25 fine imposed by a city or town court for a safety belt violation or another Class D infraction be retained by the political division entering the judgment.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Revenues: Three statutory references refer to Class D infractions, but only seat belt violations have registered fine revenue in recent years. The number of seat belt violations varies widely year to year, but experience indicates that the majority of fines are the maximum of \$25. Based on a three-year average (CY 95-97) of 38,800 guilty verdicts, approximately \$970,000 is estimated to be deposited annually to the state General Fund due to seat belt fines. (A total of \$8.98 M in Class A-D infraction judgments was deposited in FY 98; judgment classes are not accounted separately.)

The future loss of revenue to the state General Fund due to this bill will vary according to the annual number of guilty verdicts for seat belt violations. The estimated annual loss in revenue will be about \$194,000.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: Unit revenues will vary depending on courts and annual variations of violations. Based on a three year average, approximately \$194,000 per year in seat belt fines may be expected to be deposited statewide to county, city or town general funds based on judgments of the presiding courts.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties, cities and towns.

Information Sources: Mary Deprez, Bureau of Motor Vehicles; Auditor's Trial Balance, June 30, 1998.