

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 363 (Delegate Minnick, *et al.*)
(Baltimore County Administration and Baltimore City Administration)
Appropriations Referred to Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund - Transfer to the Department of State Police and Extension of Termination Date

This amended bill transfers the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to the Department of State Police. The bill also extends, from July 1, 1997 to July 1, 2000, the termination date for the council and the fund.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. (See below.)

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund is composed of fines assessed by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) against owners of uninsured vehicles and any fees the MVA collects for inspecting salvaged vehicles. The proposed FY 1998 budget reflects revenues of \$2,746,103 for the fund.

The FY 1998 budget allowance for the Vehicle Theft Prevention Program is \$2,746,103. Operations of the council and the fund would shift from DPSCS to the State Police, resulting in a \$2,746,103 special fund revenue and expenditure decrease for DPSCS and an equivalent increase for the State Police. The net effect is zero.

The State Police advise that this bill may require an additional full-time or part-time person

to perform accounting and disbursement functions attendant to administering the fund. The State Police also report that this bill could require additional office space to house the council due to existing space shortages, even though the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council currently has office space in their Hagerstown Barracks.

The Department of Fiscal Services advises that the statute creating the fund requires that the number one spending priority for the fund is “to pay the costs of the council”. Accordingly, any additional costs of the council arising from the provisions of this bill would statutorily have to be borne by the proceeds of the fund; the net effect on State finances is zero.

Extending the termination date for the program would mean that special fund revenues and expenditures would continue until July 1, 2000. Without this extension, revenues currently provided to the fund would be redirected to the general fund.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 1997
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