

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 155 (Chairman, Judiciary Committee)
(Departmental - State Police, Dept. of)

Judiciary

Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund - Extension of Sunset

This departmental bill extends the sunset date for the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2003.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State finances for the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund would continue beyond FY 2000. The Governor's FY 2001 proposed budget includes \$41,700 in administration costs for the council. The proposed FY 2001 budget assumes \$2.7 million from fees and fines for the fund. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of State Police has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund consists of monies collected from motor vehicle salvage inspection fees, fines assessed and collected for lapse or termination of required motor vehicle insurance security in the amount of \$2 million, and federal grant funds.

Background: The council and fund were created by Chapter 459 of 1994, with a sunset provision of July 1, 1997. Chapter 434 of 1997 extended that sunset until July 1, 2000. The council implemented a statewide vehicle theft prevention strategy and awards grants to various public and private entities in an effort to reduce vehicle thefts. Since the council's inception, over \$10 million in grants have been awarded. During that same period, vehicle thefts in the State have decreased by 26%.

While the fund no longer receives federal grant contributions, approximately \$31,600 in prior federal grant money is expected to be carried over from fiscal 2000 to fiscal 2001.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2000

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