

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 833

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 10, strike “authorizing” and substitute “requiring property and casualty insurers to pay an additional amount of the fraud prevention fee; expressing the intent of the General Assembly that”; in the same line, strike “to”; and strike beginning with “altering” in line 10 down through “change” in line 11 and substitute “providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 18, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Public Safety

Section 2-703(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Public Safety

Section 2-703(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2003 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (Council) is charged with assisting in the prevention and deterrence of private passenger and commercial motor vehicle theft and related crime, including vandalism and theft of property from vehicles in the State; and

(Over)

WHEREAS, The Council seeks to improve and support vehicle theft law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, and education and juvenile diversion programs by establishing statewide planning capabilities and coordination of dedicated funding sources; and

WHEREAS, Following the 1997 establishment of the Council and a statewide vehicle theft prevention strategy, the number of vehicle thefts significantly declined;

WHEREAS, Due to budget constraints over the past several years, the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund has experienced erratic funding levels that have ultimately resulted in an overall underfunding of the theft prevention program; and

WHEREAS, The Council reports that the number of statewide vehicle thefts has steadily climbed from a low of about 26,000 in 1999 to over 35,000 in 2004, translating into an economic loss for 2004 in excess of \$216,000,000; now, therefore,.”

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, in line 5, strike “TWO-THIRDS OF THE” and substitute “EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 6-202(B)(2) OF THIS ARTICLE, ALL”; in line 15, after “(b)” insert “(1)”; in the same line, strike “OF THE” and substitute “EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE”; strike beginning with the colon in line 16 down through “TWO-THIRDS” in line 17; strike beginning with the semicolon in line 18 down through “THEFT” in line 28 and substitute “.

(2) THE REVENUE RECEIVED THROUGH THE COLLECTION OF THE FRAUD PREVENTION FEE BY THE COMMISSIONER UNDER § 6-203(A)(1)(II) OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION FUND UNDER § 2-703 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TO BE USED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING LOCAL JURISDICTIONS IN PREVENTING VEHICLE THEFT”;

in line 35, after “(1)” insert “(I)”; in the same line, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “\$1,500;” and substitute “; AND”; and after line 35, insert:

“(II) FOR EACH PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURER, \$750 IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN ITEM (1) OF THIS ITEM;”.

On page 3, after line 2, insert:

“Article - Public Safety

2-703.

(a) There is a Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund.

(c) The Fund consists of:

(1) money received by the Fund under § 17-106 of the Transportation Article;

(2) MONEY RECEIVED BY THE FUND UNDER § 6-202(B)(2) OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE;

[(2)] (3) money received by the Council or the Fund from any source; and

[(3)] (4) investment earnings of the Fund.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund, as provided under § 17-106(e) of the Transportation Article.”;

in line 10, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; in line 11, strike “July” and substitute “June”; and in the same line, after “2005.” insert “Section 1 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.