

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 705

(Chair, Appropriations Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – State Police)

Appropriations

Budget and Taxation

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**Department of State Police - School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund - Transfer to  
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention**

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This departmental bill transfers the administration of the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund from the Department of State Police to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

The bill is effective July 1, 2008.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. State operations and finances would not be materially affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that assists law enforcement agencies in addressing the problem of drivers illegally failing to stop for school vehicles. The fund was established in fiscal 2000 and has been administered by the State Police since its inception. By statute, the fund consists of a

portion of penalties assessed on uninsured motorists, investment earnings, and any other money deposited to the fund.

**Background:** This special fund receives about \$600,000 from uninsured motorists' penalties annually. The Governor's fiscal 2009 budget allowance shows \$49,973 for administrative costs (including one contractual position), which are covered by the special fund. The remaining \$550,000 is allocated for grants (creating a total 2009 budget allowance of \$599,973). The year-end balance of the fund for fiscal 2007 was \$99,430. Of that amount, \$66,909 is available for grants in fiscal 2008, with the remainder encumbered for administrative costs.

GOCCP is responsible for the development and revision of the Maryland Crime Control and Prevention Strategy. The strategy's four key elements involve targeting high-risk offenders; reclaiming at-risk neighborhoods; protecting and supporting victims; and preventing youth violence, drug use, and gangs. The office administers numerous federal and State grant programs and serves as a clearinghouse for information, research, and analysis relating to crime control and prevention policy. One of its identified key goals involves the administration of funds to State and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to improve the delivery of services.

The Governor's budget allowance for fiscal 2009 projects \$21.6 million in general fund grants from GOCCP to a variety of State and local grantees. GOCCP's operating expenses for fiscal 2009 (including all grants, subsidies, and contributions) totals about \$39.9 million.

**State Expenditures:** The special fund's administrative costs are paid out of the special fund. Current law allows \$50,000 of fund revenues to be spent on administrative costs and the 2009 budget allowance allocates \$49,973 for these purposes, including the one contractual employee, who is now at the Department of State Police. Under this bill, both the fund and this employee would shift to GOCCP. There is no net fiscal impact and fund operations would continue as before.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of State Police, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2008  
ncs/jr

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