



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 1, 2022

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 13

Position: Support w/Amendments

BILL TITLE: Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund – Allocation of Grants

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to alter the formula under which the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council allocates grant funding from the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund. The intent of the legislation is to increase funding to those jurisdictions with higher theft rates.

Under current law, the funds are distributed on a pro rata basis determined by the total number of vehicles registered in each subdivision divided by the total number of vehicles registered in the State. The funding for the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund comes from the uninsured motorist penalties collected by the MVA under Transportation Article 17-106.

The reason for the change to the formula is based upon a report issued by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability within the Department of Legislative Services. Recommendation 2 states that the Council “should consider weighing a county’s vehicle theft rate more heavily when apportioning grant money”. However, the formula in Senate Bill 13 is confusing and based on our initial review, redirects funds to counties that do not have a problem with vehicle theft.

The Department and the Council worked with the bill’s sponsor to craft an amendment to ensure the formula achieves the goal of the report. This amendment will allocate the funds based on the need to reduce vehicle thefts in a particular jurisdiction versus just the number of vehicles registered in any particular jurisdiction.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 13 a favorable report as amended.