

CORY V. McCRAY
Legislative District 45
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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 13

Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund – Allocation of Grants

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 13. To function efficiently and intentionally, the grants made available by the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund must be allocated in ways that account for the prevalence of motor vehicle theft and other related crimes within a county.

In 1994, the Maryland General Assembly established the Department of State Police's Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (VTPC) and the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund. Both, the Council and the Fund, were purposed to reduce, avert, and deter theft of motor vehicles throughout the State. More specifically, the Council was tasked to use the Fund to support and establish programs that reduce, study, and identify ways to prevent the incidence of future vehicle theft and related crimes.

In July 2021, the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) produced a performance evaluation report of Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and its subsidiary fund. In the report, OPEGA recommends that VTPC consider weighting a county's vehicle theft rate more heavily when apportioning grant money. Such findings call for a change to the current equation used to calculate the Council's allocation of grants. Senate Bill 13 is that change.

Essentially, Senate Bill 13 will alter the calculation, from <the total number of vehicles registered in each subdivision divided by the total number of vehicles registered in the State>, to <the number of *actual* thefts within a subdivision divided by the total number of people in that subdivision, multiplied by 100,000>.

By adjusting the allocation equation, grant funds will be proportioned and distributed based on relevant vehicle theft statistics, as opposed to the total number of vehicles in a subdivision or the State.

If enacted, Senate Bill 13 will take effect on October 1, 2022, and the VTPC will be required to modify the methods by which they determine grant allocation.

In efforts to take a more targeted approach in combatting motor vehicle theft in our State, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 13.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
State Senator, 45th District