

Testimony SB 13 Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund-All

Uploaded by: Cory McCray

Position: FAV

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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

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Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

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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

MSP Position paper for SB0013.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Brady

Position: FWA



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.