



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council Sunset Extension**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**CHANGES TO EXISTING LAW**

This proposal seeks to extend the current "sunset" provision in the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act four years to January 1, 2008.

**REASONS FOR PROPOSING THE BILL**

The Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act was enacted in 1991 to prevent, combat and reduce motor vehicle theft in Illinois; to improve and support motor vehicle theft law enforcement, prosecution, and the administration of motor vehicle theft laws by establishing statewide planning capabilities and the coordination of financial resources to address the problem (20 ILCS 4005/1). The act was crafted by a coalition of insurance industry and law enforcement officials, and was modeled on legislation passed in the State of Michigan.

The Act created an eleven-member Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, which includes seven gubernatorial appointments, that oversees and administers a special fund used to award grants for vehicle theft prevention programs. The Act requires insurance companies licensed to do business in Illinois to pay annually into the fund an amount equivalent to \$1.00 for each private passenger car they insured for comprehensive coverage in the previous year. About \$5.7 million is paid into the fund on annual basis.

Since March of 1992, when the Council made its first grant awards, dozens of programs designed to prevent, combat, and reduce motor vehicle theft in Illinois have been launched. The programs include:

- special multi-jurisdictional task forces in the Chicago, East St. Louis, Joliet and Rockford metropolitan areas;
- focused vehicle theft prosecution programs in Cook, Lake, Kane, DuPage, St. Clair, Madison, Kankakee, Will, and Winnebago Counties;
- a program which diverted first-time, juvenile auto theft offenders into intensive counseling activities and other referral services in Cook County;
- a statewide auditing program focused on insurance pools and vehicle and parts-related businesses throughout Illinois;
- a statewide, advanced law enforcement training program;
- a statewide, specialized crime analysis and intelligence gathering clearinghouse;
- a strategic theft reduction program in the City of Chicago; and
- a statewide public awareness and education program known as "Park Smart".

The Trust Funds awarded to date have been used chiefly to fund law enforcement personnel. Persons funded include sworn and civilian investigative personnel, prosecuting attorneys, criminal intelligence analysts, paralegals, data input operators, clerical support staff, and others.

The Act has been successful in focusing law enforcement resources on the problem of motor vehicle theft.

Grant program expenditures through 2001 totaled \$54 million. Funded programs have achieved the following through the end of 2001: investigations initiated - 14,811; audits of vehicle businesses conducted - 26,141; arrests made - 8,300; convictions obtained - 3,497; vehicles recovered - 23,005 ; dollar value of recoveries - \$157.6 million; and cumulative reduction in vehicle thefts (1991-2001) - 35%.

According to Illinois State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation figures, the cumulative reduction in motor vehicle thefts for the period 1991 through 2001 was 35%. The number of thefts in 2001 (49,214) was 26,428 fewer than the number in 1991 - this reduction equates to about \$176 million less in stolen vehicles.

In short, the \$54 million spent in grant programs returned approximately \$334 million in recovered stolen vehicles and reduced motor vehicle theft rates - a return of \$6 for every dollar spent.

The Council feels the results generated by the funded programs have been very positive. The legislative proposal would permit the continued support of these successful efforts. The programs funded by the Council will cease to exist if the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act is repealed.

#### **PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

None

#### **EFFECT ON OTHER STATE AGENCIES**

This legislation should result in the continuation of state agency programs currently funded by the Council. Such recipients include the Illinois State Police, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and Illinois Secretary of State's Department of Police.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's current budget includes appropriations for Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council grant awards and expenditures. If this bill does not pass, the Authority's fiscal year 2004 appropriation request will be affected since the Council would be abolished on January 1, 2004 - halfway through fiscal year 2004.

#### **PROBABLE SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS**

Support for the proposal is expected from various government agencies, insurance companies and insurance associations including: the Illinois State Police; the Illinois Secretary of State's Department of Police; sheriff's offices and local police departments; state's attorneys; State Farm Insurance Companies; Allstate Insurance Company; Country Companies; the Illinois Insurance Association; the Alliance of American Insurers; the National Insurance Crime Bureau and, the National Association of Independent Insurers.

There are no known opponents to the extension of the life of the Council.

**WITNESSES AND BILL DRAFTING**

The proposal contained in this bill involves several witnesses and bill drafters, all of which can be contacted through:

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**SUGGESTED SPONSOR**

To be determined