

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 425

DATE: February 12, 2007

Version: As introduced

Authors: Paymar

Subject: Impound fees; Vehicle theft; Emergency assistance

Analyst: Rebecca Pirius, 651-296-5044

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill authorizes emergency grant assistance to reimburse crime victims for fees incurred due to the impoundment of a recovered stolen vehicle. The bill expands an existing grant program that provides emergency assistance to crime victims. The grant program currently provides assistance to crime victims for replacing broken doors and windows, installing security devices, and cleaning up crime scenes. The bill adds "reimbursement of impound fees" to the list of compensable emergency assistance purposes and directs funds from the existing Auto Theft Prevention Surcharge for this purpose. Local prosecutors and victim assistance programs distribute the grants.

Section

- 1 Auto Theft Prevention Program.** Directs the commissioner of commerce to transfer monies from the auto theft prevention program to the general fund and to the motor vehicle theft account created in **section 3**.
- 2 Auto Theft Prevention Account.** The Auto Theft Prevention Program is currently funded through an insurance surcharge of 50 cents per vehicle for every six months of coverage. Currently, the first \$1,300,000 collected each year must be transferred to the general fund. Excess revenues fund the Auto Theft Prevention Program. This section provides that the first \$1,300,000 collected will go to the general fund and a blank amount will go to the motor vehicle theft account created in **section 3**. Excess revenues continue to the fund the Auto Theft Prevention Program.
- 3 Motor Vehicle Theft Account.** Creates the motor vehicle theft account and appropriates the funds to the department of public safety to fund grant requests for reimbursing crime victims for impound fees as provided in **section 4**.

- 4 Grants authorized.** Adds the following as a compensable purpose under the emergency assistance grant program: reimbursement of towing and storage fees incurred due to impoundment of a recovered stolen vehicle.
- 5 Application for grants.** Provides that local prosecutors and victim assistance programs that apply for funds to reimburse impound fees must make a separate application to the commissioner. Authorizes the applicant to spend up to five percent of the grant awarded for administrative costs.
- 6 Awards; limitations.** (a) Prohibits awards to victims that failed to carry the minimum amount of insurance required by law. (b) Limits individual awards to \$500.
- 4-7 Emergency assistance grant program.** Replaces an obsolete reference to the "Crime Victim and Witness Advisory Council" with the "commissioner of public safety."
- 8 Report to the legislature.** Directs the commissioner of public safety to submit a report to the legislature by February 1, 2008, regarding the implementation, use, and administration of the emergency assistance grant program.