

HB 3276 -- AUTO THEFT PREVENTION

SPONSOR: Butz

This bill establishes the "Auto Theft Prevention Commission", which is assigned to the Department of Public Safety, however the Director of Public Safety will have no supervision, authority, or control over the actions or decisions of the Commission. The Commission will have 11 members, including the Superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol or his or her designee; the Attorney General or his or her designee; the Director of the Department of Revenue or his or her designee; the Director of the Department of Commerce and Insurance; and various members to be appointed by the Governor. The bill specifies requirements and terms for those members appointed by the Governor.

This bill specifies the duties of the Commission including, but not limited to, establishing a grant program for the provision of funds to local law enforcement agencies and multi-jurisdiction task forces for:

(1) Preventing, reducing, and investigating motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts theft;

(2) Investigating fraud related to motor vehicle insurance, motor vehicle dealer purchases, and motor vehicle rental transactions; and

(3) Purchasing equipment and technology for support in motor vehicle-related crime prevention, reduction, and investigation.

The Commission will also provide support to local prosecutors handling motor vehicle- and motor vehicle parts-theft.

Any grant awarded under this Section will be upon recommendation from and after consideration by the Commission. Each grant application must describe the type of motor vehicle-related crime prevention, reduction, investigation, enforcement, prosecution, or offender rehabilitation program to be implemented. The types of programs which can be implemented by grants are specified in the bill. To the extent possible, grants will be awarded in a variety of geographic areas of the State. The ability to contribute additional moneys or match funding for a program will not be required as a condition to receive a grant.

The Commission must prepare an annual report and submit it to the General Assembly and the Governor by December 1st.

The bill creates the "Auto Theft Prevention Commission Revolving Fund", which will be used solely to implement the provisions related to the Commission. There will be \$5 added to the fee to register a motor vehicle or trailer, increasing the total fee to \$13.50. The additional \$5 will be transferred to the Fund. The bill allows the Commission to accept and use Federal funds granted by Congress or by Executive order, as well as private gifts and donations. Acceptance and use of Federal funds will not require State matching funds nor create an obligation on the General Assembly to continue the purposes for which the Federal funds were made available.

This bill is similar to HB 527 (2025).