

(5) TO STUDY AND PROPOSE LAWS THAT WILL FURTHER PREVENT AND DETER VEHICLE THEFTS AND RELATED CRIMES.

(C) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL EMPLOY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

(2) THE EXPENSES OF THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING STAFF SALARIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, SHALL BE PAID FROM THE FUND. IN NO CASE MAY EXPENSES EXCEED 7% OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND IN ANY FISCAL YEAR.

(3) THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SERVE AS THE LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE COUNCIL.

4-1604.

(A) THERE IS ESTABLISHED A VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION FUND.

(B) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL NONLAPSING FUND AND SHALL CONSIST OF:

(1) ALL MONEY RECEIVED UNDER § 4-1605 OF THIS SUBTITLE §§ 13-507 AND 17-106 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE; AND

(2) ALL MONEY RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL OR THE FUND FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING GIFTS, GRANTS, AWARDS, OR MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR ASSOCIATION, ORGANIZATION, OR OTHER PRIVATE SOURCE.

(C) (1) MONEY RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL SHALL BE PLACED IN THE FUND.

(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD AND THE STATE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUNDS.

(3) THE PROCEEDS OF THE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND REINVESTED.

(4) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS SHALL BE PAID INTO THE FUND.

(D) MONEY IN THE FUND SHALL BE EXPENDED BY THE COUNCIL IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY:

(1) TO PAY THE COSTS OF THE COUNCIL; AND

(2) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER AND PRIORITIZE THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES AND PROGRAMS WHEN MAKING AWARDS FROM THE FUND:

(1) STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, TO ENHANCE OR AUGMENT VEHICLE THEFT ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION TEAMS OR EFFORTS;

(2) STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, FOR PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF VEHICLE THEFT;