

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6019**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 6**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 30, 2003  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Air Bag Tampering.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Meeks C  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill makes it a Class A misdemeanor to install in a motor vehicle, as part of the motor vehicle's inflatable restraint system, a defective air bag or another object that does not comply with federal safety regulations for the make, model, and year of the motor vehicle. It also makes the offense a Class C felony if an injury occurs as a result of the air bag tampering.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Under the bill, a person who knowingly or intentionally installs a defective air bag or any object other than an air bag that complies with federal safety regulations commits air bag tampering, a Class A misdemeanor. The crime would be a Class C felony if a person in the vehicle is injured as a result of the criminal act.

A Class C felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from two to eight years depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$22,131 in FY 2000. Individual facility expenditures ranged from \$16,442 to \$40,312. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the average cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily, per prisoner. The average length of stay in DOC facilities for all Class C felony offenders is approximately two years.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class C felony is \$10,000 and for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and

collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Correction.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Sheriffs Association, Department of Correction.

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