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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6019
BILL NUMBER: SB 6

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 8, 2003
BILL AMENDED: Mar 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Air Bag Tampering.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Meeks C
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Aguilera

BILL STATUS: As Passed - House

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill has the following provisions:

(A) It makes it a Class A misdemeanor to knowingly or intentionally install in a motor vehicle any object in place of an airbag in the motor vehicle's inflatable restraint system if the installed object fails to comply with federal requirements,

(B) It makes it a Class D felony if an injury occurs as a result of the installation.

(C) It makes it a Class D felony to knowingly or intentionally sell, lease, trade, or transfer a motor vehicle that has been installed with any object in place of an air bag in the motor vehicle's inflatable restraint system if the installed object fails to comply with federal requirements.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) No data are available to indicate how many offenders may be convicted of installing an airbag not complying with federal standards or selling or trading an automobile with an air bag that does not comply with federal standards. A Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from six months to three years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$25,087 in FY 2001. Individual facility expenditures ranged from \$18,520 to \$54,465. (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 Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately ten months.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) 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 D felony is \$10,000, while the maximum fine 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: (Revised) For either Class A misdemeanors or Class D felonies, 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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