

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 626  
By: Watson  
Finance  
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As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (authority) was created in 1991 to address the rise of crimes related to motor vehicle theft statewide. The authority coordinates statewide training, prevention, and response. Since its inception, the incidence of motor vehicle theft has been reduced by over 70 percent. The authority now also oversees efforts to reduce and prevent the burglary of vehicles. Its programs have been used as a national model in the United States and in British Columbia, Canada.

The authority is authorized to receive \$1 from each \$2 assessed fee per individual vehicle insurance policy. When the authority was created, this fee was deposited into a dedicated account known as the Auto Theft Prevention Fund (ATPF). However, in 1997, ATPF was eliminated and revenue now goes directly into general revenue. The authority believes this inhibits its ability to receive full funding and seeks to restore the dedicated fund. Presently, more than 50 percent of the funds collected remain in general revenue and are not appropriated.

S.B. 626 reinstates ATPF as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund.

As proposed, S.B. 626 amends current law relating to fees collected by the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 8, Article 4413(37), Revised Statutes, by reenacting and amending Subsection (a), as amended by Chapters 308 (H.B. 1887) and 927 (H.B. 3225), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2), as follows:

(a) Provides that the automobile theft prevention fund is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund. Requires the comptroller of public accounts of the State of Texas to deposit to the credit of the fund any gift or grant of money accepted by the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (authority) and money collected under Sections 9 (Motor Vehicle Registration Program) and 10 (Fee) of this article.

(a-1) Provides that Sections 403.095 (Use of Dedicated Revenue) and 404.071 (Disposition of Interest on Investments), Government Code, do not apply to the fund.

(a-2) Creates this subsection from existing text. Requires that money appropriated to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) for authority purposes and money credited to the fund be used only by the authority to pay TxDMV for administrative costs and to achieve certain purposes of this article.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2013.