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## Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee

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### HB 2193

**Brief Description:** Reauthorizing and expanding the financial fraud and identity theft crimes investigation and prosecution program.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Kirby, Irwin and Kilduff.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Crimes Investigation and Prosecution Program (Program) until 2025.
- Increases the surcharges dedicated to funding of the Program.

**Hearing Date:** 1/14/20

**Staff:** Edie Adams (786-7180).

#### Background:

The Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Crimes Investigation and Prosecution Program (Program) within the Department of Commerce was created in 2008 with an original expiration date of July 1, 2015. In 2015 the Legislature extended the Program, which is now set to expire on July 1, 2020. The Program consists of two regional financial fraud and identity theft crime task forces: the Central Puget Sound Task Force that includes King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, and the Spokane County Task Force.

The task forces include representatives of local law enforcement agencies, county prosecutors, the Office of the Attorney General, financial institutions, and other law enforcement entities. The task forces employ law enforcement, investigation, and prosecutorial staff dedicated to investigating and prosecuting financial fraud and identity theft crimes, focusing on complex regional and multijurisdictional cases. Financial fraud and identity theft crimes include those that involve: check fraud, chronic unlawful issuance of bank checks, embezzlement, credit/debit card fraud, identity theft, forgery, counterfeit instruments such as checks or documents, organized counterfeit check rings, and organized identification theft rings.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The Program is funded through surcharges on filings with the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) program within the Department of Licensing. The UCC program files financing statements and other documents evidencing liens against personal property. The surcharges are \$10 for both paper and electronic filings. Revenues from these surcharges are deposited into the Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Investigation and Prosecution Program Account, which may be used only to support the activities of the task forces and the expenses of the Department of Commerce in administering the Program. These surcharges will expire in 2020.

**Summary of Bill:**

The expiration date for the Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Crimes Investigation and Prosecution Program is extended to July 1, 2025. Surcharges on Uniform Commercial Code program filings with the Department of Licensing are increased from \$10 to \$15 for both paper and electronic filings. These surcharges will expire July 1, 2025.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 7, 2020.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.