

**SB 5038 - DIGEST**

Declares that it is the intent of this act to deter motor vehicle theft through a statewide cooperative effort by combating motor vehicle theft through tough laws, supporting law enforcement activities, improving enforcement and administration, effective prosecution, public awareness, and meaningful treatment for first time offenders where appropriate. It is also the intent to ensure that adequate funding is provided to implement this act in order for real, observable reductions in the number of auto thefts in Washington state.

Establishes the Washington auto theft prevention authority.

Requires the Washington auto theft prevention authority to initially convene at the call of the chief of the Washington state patrol, or the chief's designee, no later than the third Monday in January 2008. Subsequent meetings of the authority shall be at the call of the chair or seven members.

Provides that, beginning July 1, 2007, a surcharge of fifty cents every six months per insured automobile shall be charged by each insurer to each person purchasing automobile insurance, which will be in addition to any other charge authorized by law. The insurance commissioner may retain up to two percent of the funds collected to administer collection. The remaining funds shall be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer who will deposit the funds into the Washington auto theft prevention authority account created in this act. The funds will be used to carry out the Washington auto theft prevention authority program duties and functions as set forth in this act.