



Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

Education and Legislative Committee Meeting

Austin, Texas

June 1, 2022



4000 Jackson Avenue
Austin Texas, 78731
www.txwatchyourcar.com

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AGENDA
EDUCATION AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
4000 JACKSON AVENUE, BUILDING 1, LONE STAR ROOM
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78731
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022
10:00 A.M.

The Public may access the meeting to view and listen only via Cisco WebEx:
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Event number: 2455 595 5146

Event password: 060122 (meeting date)

Link to June 1, 2022, MVCPA Education and Legislative Committee Meeting Documents (under the Calendar tab): <https://www.txdmv.gov/about-us/MVCPA>

All agenda items are subject to discussion, questions, consideration, and action by the Education and Legislative Committee of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (Committee). Agenda item numbers are assigned for ease of reference only and do not necessarily reflect the order of their consideration by the Committee. Presentations may be made by the identified staff, Committee member or other personnel as needed. The Committee reserves the right to discuss any items in closed session where authorized by the Open Meetings Act. A quorum of the Board of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (Board) may be present at this meeting for information gathering and discussion. However, Board members who are not Committee members will not vote on any Committee agenda items, nor will any Board action be taken.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
- B. Pledge of Allegiance (U.S. and Texas Flags)
- C. Comments from Presiding Officer
- D. Comments from Committee Members

BRIEFING AND ACTION ITEMS - Bryan Wilson, Director, MVCPA (including designated staff)

- 2. Report on and discussion of MVCPA portion of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan**
- 3. Discuss and consider recommendations regarding the FY24-25 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) Baseline**
- 4. Discuss and consider recommendations regarding the FY24-25 Exceptional Item Requests**
 - A. Full 20% of amount collected

- B. Estimated appropriation
 - C. Dedicated MVCPA account/fund
 - D. Fund 10 (TxDMV Fund) Coordination
 - E. Discuss and consider recommendations for increases in MVCPA Full Time Employee (FTE):
 - i. Grant and Program Management staff (LEO program, Monitor, training coordinator)
 - ii. Insurance Collections staff (Auditor, Collections specialist and compliance specialist)
- 5. Discuss and consider recommendations to TxDMV for MVCPA-related statutory change recommendations to the 88th Legislature**
- A. MVCPA authorized its own Executive Director
 - B. Authority to fund research on crime prevention and aftermarket theft protection
 - C. Authority to develop and fund programs to reduce recidivism
 - D. Improving education and messaging on taking keys and guns out of vehicle
 - E. Bait Car Coordination program
 - F. Other Related Items
- 6. Discuss meetings with Legislators and methods to serve as a resource for legislative committee members and hearings.**
- 7. Report on Public Education and Public Awareness Activities**
- 8. Public Comment**
- 9. Adjournment**

The Committee will allow an open comment period to receive public comment on any agenda item or other matter that is under the jurisdiction of the Committee. No action will be taken on matters that are not part of the agenda for the meeting. For subjects that are not otherwise part of the agenda for the meeting, Committee members may respond in accordance with Government Code, Section 551.042 and consider the feasibility of placing the matter on the agenda for a future meeting.

If you would like to comment on any agenda item (including an open comment under the agenda item for Public Comment), you must complete a speaker's form at the registration table prior to the agenda item being taken up by the Committee.

Public comment will only be accepted in person. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes, and time allotted to one speaker may not be reassigned to another speaker.

Any individual with a disability who plans to attend this meeting and requires auxiliary aids or services should notify the department as far in advance as possible, but no less than two days in advance, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Contact David Richards by telephone at (512) 465-1423.

I certify that I have reviewed this document and that it conforms to all applicable Texas Register filing requirements.

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: David Richards, General Counsel, (512) 465-1423.

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1.A. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

	In-Person
Gilberto Salinas – E&L Committee Chairman Consumer Representative – Kerrville, TX	
Kit Whitehill – Board Member Consumer Representative – Coppell, TX	
Dean Smith – Board Member Insurance Representative – Waco, TX	

NOTES:

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CALL TO ORDER

1. B. Pledges



"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

1. C. Comments from Presiding Officer

1. D. Comments from Committee Members

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2. Report on and discussion of MVCPA portion of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan
Report Item Only

Strategic Plans are required from state agencies to be submitted to the LBB and the Office of the Governor in even numbered years. TxDMV’s plan is still being formulated and finalized with the TxDMV Executive Director. TxDMV has included in the plan sections that reflect the administrative attachment of the MVCPA to TxDMV. Below are excerpts from the **plan** related to MVCPA.

TxDMV Agency Operational Goal and Action Plan Section

1. Optimize Services and Systems

...¹

2. Protect the Public

Protect the safety of the public through administering statutes regarding the regulation of motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, converters, and dealers of motor vehicles, motor carrier, and salvage vehicle dealers through investigating complaints and pursuing administrative protection of those licensees believed to have violated the statutes and rules. Provides financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies and communities to combat and prevent statewide motor vehicle crime.

...

2.2 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority is administratively attached to the TxDMV and required to assess motor vehicle crime and analyze methods to prevent those crimes; provide financial and other support to local law enforcement agencies to operative economic motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime enforcement teams; conduct education programs to inform motor vehicle owners of methods of preventing motor vehicle burglary or theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime; and provide law enforcement training.

...

2.1.2. Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention

Improve the effectiveness of motor vehicle crime prevention programs by (1) providing financial and other support to local law enforcement agencies to operate economic motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime enforcement teams, and (2) providing grants to support other motor vehicle crime prevention activities.

SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS TO ACHIEVE GOAL

...

- Pursue ~~Maximum~~ Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) Funding Required by Statute - MVCPA has the statutory duty to issue grants to local law enforcement entities and other jurisdictions throughout the state to combat motor vehicle crime and support motor vehicle crime prevention efforts. The program awarded nearly \$12 million during fiscal year 2021 through 24 grants, 14 of which served multi-jurisdictional taskforces.

¹ ...-Ellipse indicates excerpt from other sections

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Texas Transportation Code, Section 1006.153 requires that 20 percent of fee revenue collected under this section be appropriated to the MVCPA. In FY 2021, total fee collections were approximately \$104 million, which should have resulted in MVCPA appropriations of \$20.8 million for the year. However, the program was appropriated \$12.8 million (or 12%) in FY 2021 and \$15 million (or 14%) in FY 2022.

Due to the inability to access funding at statutorily prescribed levels, some areas of the state are not served by the specialized, trained investigators and equipment provided by MVCPA grants. MVCPA has also not been able to fully engage the public through its statewide education efforts to inform motor vehicle owners of effective methods to prevent motor vehicle crime. During FY 2024-2025, the TxDMV will be pursuing the maximum allowable appropriations. This activity will be completed by August 2025

Redundancy and Impediment Section

Service, Statute, Rule or Regulation:

Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) Statutory Funding
Texas Transportation Code 1006.153

Description:

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) is administratively attached to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) but governed by its own independent Board appointed by the Governor. The MVCPA has the statutory duty to issue grants to local law enforcement entities and other agencies throughout the state to combat motor vehicle crime and support motor vehicle crime prevention efforts. The program awarded nearly \$12 million during fiscal year 2021 through 24 grants, 14 of which served multi-jurisdictional taskforces.

Texas Transportation Code 1006.153 requires that 20 percent of collected revenue be appropriated to the MVCPA. FY21 fee collections totaled \$104 million, which should have resulted in MVCPA appropriations of \$21 million for the year. However, the program was appropriated \$12.8 million (less a 5% reduction) for FY21 (12% of revenue) and \$15 million for FY22 (14% of FY21 revenue collections).

Due to the inability to access funding at statutorily prescribed levels, some areas of the state are not served by the specialized, trained investigators and equipment provided by MVCPA grants. The program does not have sufficient resources to fully combat human traffickers' use of stolen vehicles or reduce the number of stolen vehicles leaving the state through border and seaports. MVCPA has also not been able to fully engage the public through its statewide education efforts to inform motor vehicle owners of effective methods to prevent motor vehicle crime.

Agency Recommendation:

Request the legislature increase funding for the MVCPA, up to the 20% statutory level, in the TxDMV appropriation pattern in future biennia.

Estimated Cost Savings or Benefit:

Meeting the statutory funding requirement for the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority would make additional funding available to local law enforcement throughout the state to combat and prevent motor vehicle crimes. The additional funding would further reduce the almost \$2 billion in losses Texans experience from motor vehicle crime.

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3. Discuss and consider recommendations regarding the FY24-25 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) Baseline

FY24-25 Baseline Request

	FY23	FY24-25 Biennium	FY24	FY25
Baseline Request - Same as FY22-23 Appropriation Amount		\$29,959,210	\$14,979,605	\$14,979,605

Agenda Item #3 - MVCPA Director Recommends - Adopt current biennium amount as its Baseline Request

Collection Data

Actual Amount Collected by MVCPA in FY21 as of 12/01/21 per CPA	\$104,926,218			
Estimated FY22 Collections (1.5% inc. est.)	\$106,500,111			
Estimated FY23 Collections (1.5% inc. est.)	\$108,097,613			
MVCPA projection based on FY21 fiscal year collections (1.5% /yr increase)		\$221,059,618	\$109,719,077	\$111,340,541
MVCPA Full Appropriation Request (TTC 1006.153e.) Amount Based on Fiscal Year Projection		\$44,211,924	\$21,943,815	\$22,268,108

4. Discuss and consider recommendations regarding the FY24-25 Exceptional Item Requests

A. Full 20% of amount collected

FY24-25 MVCPA Exceptional Item

Difference between full appropriation based on projected collections and Baseline amount	\$14,252,714	\$6,964,210	\$7,288,503
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Agenda Item #4 A. - MVCPA Director Recommends - Committee recommend as the authority's main priority an Exceptional Item request of full appropriation of 20% of the amount collected by the MVCPA.

OR

MVCPA Exceptional Item - Estimated Appropriation

The Legislature sometimes allows programs with collections based funding to be appropriated an estimated value.

Agenda Item #4 B. - MVCPA Director Recommends - Committee approve recommendation to request as an Exceptional Item that MVCPA appropriations be estimated through a rider or indicated in the appropriations bill pattern.

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4. C. and D. MVCPA Dedicated Law Enforcement Fund/Account

For several years after being established in 1991, the MVCPA insurance fees were deposited to a dedicated fund.

In 1997, the legislature ended the dedicated fund (HB 1387 75R) and since then the fees have been deposited to the General Revenue (GR) fund. In 2015, the TXDMV Fund was established, but the MVCPA appropriation remained as the only part of the TxDMV appropriation not a part of the TxDMV Fund (SB 1512 84R).

There have been attempts in recent sessions to establish a dedicated account/fund for the MVCPA but none have become law. In 2015, HB 3686 would have deposited 50% of each fee to a trust fund in the state treasury which could only be appropriated to the MVCPA. Several bills proposed establishing a MVCPA subaccount in the TxDMV Fund (in 85R: HB 652, SB 1321, SB 1348; in 86R: HB 4304). The bills proposed depositing a fixed amount of the insurance fee revenue to the subaccount which would then allow the MVCPA appropriation to shift from GR to the TxDMV Fund. However, because the deposits would have been more than the appropriations, the bills had a negative impact on the GR fund. The most recent proposal, which did not get filed as a bill in the 87th session, was to have the deposit to the subaccount be whatever the amount of the appropriation is rather than a fixed amount of revenue. This should result in no net impact to the GR fund since the reduction in GR deposits (and increase to TxDMV Fund deposits) would be identical to the reduction in GR appropriations (and increase in TxDMV Fund appropriations), assuming the appropriations bill was adjusted accordingly.

The MVCPA can consider these past proposals or new ones. Any dedicated account/fund would be a part of trying to better meet the requirements of Texas Transportation Code Sec. 1006.153.

e) Out of each fee collected under Subsection (b) or an amount collected under Subsection (b-1):

- (1) **20 percent shall be appropriated to the authority for the purposes of this chapter;**
- (2) 20 percent shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund, to be used only for criminal justice purposes; and
- (3) 60 percent shall be deposited to the credit of the designated trauma facility and emergency medical services account under Section 780.003, Health and Safety Code, to be used only for the criminal justice purpose of funding designated trauma facilities, county and regional emergency medical services, and trauma care systems that provide trauma care and emergency medical services to victims of accidents resulting from traffic offenses.

Agenda Item #4 C. - MVCPA Director Recommends - Committee approve recommendation to request a statutory change that MVCPA appropriations be deposited into a dedicated account in the TxDMV Fund (Fund 10) **OR** its own new dedicated account and only allocated for funding motor vehicle crime law enforcement and prevention.

Create account within TxDMV fund for MVCPA appropriation amount

, Section 1006.153(e), Texas Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e)(1) 20 percent shall be appropriated to the authority shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund except that the comptroller shall provide for a portion of the fees to be deposited first to the credit of a subaccount in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund in a total amount that is necessary to cover the total amount appropriated to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles [may be appropriated only to the authority] for the purposes of this chapter.

Section. 1006.101 Texas Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 13 to read as follows:

Sec. (e). DEPOSIT AND APPROPRIATION OF REVENUE. All gifts, grants, and revenue as described by Section 1006.153(e) collected or received by the authority shall be deposited to the credit of a subaccount in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund and may be appropriated only to the department for purposes of the authority under this article.

~~Transportation Section 1001.151 [(c). Money appropriated to the department for Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority purposes and other revenue collected or received by the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority may not be deposited into the fund.]~~

Transportation Section 1001.152. USE OF MONEY IN FUND. Money that is required to be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles fund may be used by the department only:

(1) to support the department's operations and the administration and enforcement of the department's functions; ~~[or]~~

(2) to pay the accounting costs and related liabilities for the fund, including fringe benefits, workers' compensation, and unemployment compensation; or

(3) for purposes of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority under Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006.

~~Repealer: Section 1001.151(c), Transportation Code, is repealed.~~

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4. E. Discuss and consider recommendations for increases in Full Time Employees (FTEs) for Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA)

i. Grant Program Management Staff (Law enforcement program specialist, Grant monitor, Training coordinator)

1. Law enforcement - Program Specialist V – B21

The Authority has been asking staff to increase the level of coordination for funded programs. They are funding more programs and more complex programs (e.g. Rapid Response Strikeforce Grants). Staff members with law enforcement experience help direct successful program funding to help local law enforcement operate programs that increase stolen vehicle recoveries, arrests, and cases cleared.

2. Monitor – Grant Specialist III – B20

MVCPA is required to monitor grants on risk-based standards. The current staff of the MVCPA is too few to effectively monitor grants with proper frequency. The position will regularly monitor MVPCA grants, write reports, and review and confirm budgets. The grant monitor will help MVCPA ensure accountability by verifying rules, guidelines, policies, procedures, and regulations are followed. The person will evaluate verify and report on fiscal data required in Texas Transportation Code 1006

3. Training and Development Specialist V – B21

MVCPA has been the premier leader in motor vehicle crime investigator training since 2017. Under an agreement with TxDMV and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), MVCPA provides free training to qualified law enforcement investigators across the state. This training qualifies these investigators for confidential insurance and manufacturer databases needed to identify vehicles and detect fraud. The trainer will coordinate and perform training while developing new programs. The position will also guide agency staff and collaborate with insurance, grantees, and other related subject matter experts in the development and use of e-Learning methodologies for course design.

ii. MVCPA Fee Collections Unit

The unit will have a Tax Audit Manager, a Tax Auditor, and a Program Specialist. The two staff will report to the Tax Audit Manager who will report to the MVCPA Director. The positions will be hired to begin on September 1, 2023, if funded by the legislature. The unit will be fully operational with the first audits completed within 90 days of being fully staffed.

Unit staff will establish processes consistent with statutory requirements. The unit will closely coordinate with the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) and the Office of Attorney General in administering fee collection. The unit will help the MVCPA report non-paying insurers to the TDI so that enforcement actions can be considered by TDI promptly. The unit will closely coordinate with, and support insurers and other state agencies involved in the collecting, investigating, and non-compliance with the fee. The unit will also allow insurer refund

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requests to be promptly and accurately handled. The unit will include risk-based fee collection analysis, payment and refund auditing, and compliance education for insurers.

Estimated annual cost for program: 3 new FTEs:

Tax Audit Manager	\$113,000
Tax Auditor V	\$ 72,000
Program Specialist IV	<u>\$ 59,000</u>
Salary Total:	\$244,000
Other operating expenses	\$36,000
Total cost:	\$280,000

Tax Audit Manager – Supervise unit and work with the MVCPA Director to set unit goals and strategies for promoting compliance, increasing collections, and accurately processing refund requests. Develop policies and procedures and inform and coordinate with other state agencies involved in the fee program. Develop risk-based audit priorities and ensure that unit operates to promote the interest of the State of Texas.

Tax Auditor V – Work for and with the tax audit manager to promote compliance through risk-based auditing of insurers. Develop and implement procedures to promote fair competition and work to identify non-compliant insurers. Coordinate with other agencies to leverage resources whenever possible. The results of audits and insurer information inform the work of the program specialist to serve the insurers with accurate information.

Program Specialist IV – Work for and with the tax audit manager to provide support and information to the insurers to support a culture of compliance underpinned by education and feedback.

The unit will travel as needed to insurer locations, administrative and compliance workshops, and insurance conferences.

The net result of the unit will be an estimated increase of 3.9% or \$2.7 million in fee collections by the end of the first full collection cycle after the unit is established.

Agenda Item #4 E i. & ii. - MVCPA Director Recommends - Committee approves a recommendation to request six (6) additional FTEs under the full funding dedicated to law enforcement support and fee collections

OR

Make a formal request to TxDMV to provide 3 to 6 additional staff to the MVCPA for the purposes above.

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5. A. MVCPA Authorized to have its own Executive Director

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (Authority) is established in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) and is composed of a seven-member board (6 governor-appointed and the ex officio Director of Public Safety). The Authority has specific statutory duties laid out in Texas Transportation Code Chapter (TTC) 1006. The Authority has the power to adopt rules to implement its powers and duties. It may also solicit and accept grants. The Authority and TxDMV operate under an interagency agreement to coordinate the requirements of TTC §1006.060. (Division of Responsibilities). The statute requires the Authority to coordinate with TxDMV to develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policymaking responsibilities of the Authority and the management responsibilities of TxDMV. The TxDMV Executive Director has some duties expressly required to support the Authority such as member qualifications, notices of disqualification, and MVCPA board member training and documentation requirements. The executive director may delegate those duties. The Authority may only use staff of TxDMV.

The Authority board delegates operations to TxDMV staff and provides policy oversight for all activities. Staff supporting the Authority full-time are organized into one division within TxDMV while other staff that provide intermittent support to the Authority are in other divisions within TxDMV. However, the Authority does not have direct control or responsibility for any staff.

Authorizing the Authority to appoint an MVCPA executive director (MVCPA ED) would allow the Authority (board) to have a staff person dedicated to its own statutory duties and obligations. The MVCPA ED would be appointed and terminated by the Authority. This would reduce the inherent and continual difficulty of having two oversight authorities (the Authority and the TxDMV ED) over one position (the currently structured MVCPA director). The MVPCA division staff would still be TxDMV employees but report to the MVCPA ED. This pattern is consistent with current state law in the Indigent Defense Commission and the Manufactured Housing Board. Both are administratively attached agencies with separate governor appointed boards like the MVCPA (not an advisory board).

Previous MVCPA presiding officers and current members have identified the advantages of having a single position directly responsible to the volunteer MVCPA Board. Examples include:

Texas Government Code CHAPTER 79. TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

Sec. 79.012. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. (a) The executive director is appointed by the board.

(b) The executive director:

- (1) must be a licensed attorney;
- (2) must demonstrate an interest in the standards for and provision of criminal defense services to indigent individuals;
- (3) may not engage in the private practice of law; and
- (4) may not accept money, property, or any other thing of value not authorized by law for services rendered under this chapter.

Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 984 (H.B. 1754), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

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Sec. 79.033. ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT; SUPPORT; BUDGET. (a) The commission is administratively attached to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System.

(b) The office of court administration shall provide administrative support services, including human resources, budgetary, accounting, purchasing, payroll, information technology, and legal support services, to the commission as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(c) The commission, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Legislative Budget Board, shall prepare, approve, and submit a legislative appropriations request that is separate from the legislative appropriations request for the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and is used to develop the commission's budget structure. The commission shall maintain the legislative appropriations request and budget structure separately from those of the office of court administration. Added by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 984 (H.B. 1754), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Texas Government Code CHAPTER 2306. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Sec. 2306.6014. DIVISION DIRECTOR. (a) The Manufactured Housing Board shall employ the division director. The division director is the Manufactured Housing Board's chief executive and administrative officer.

(b) The division director is charged with administering, enforcing, and carrying out the functions and duties conferred on the division director by this subchapter and by other law.

(c) The division director serves at the pleasure of the Manufactured Housing Board.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1367, Sec. 1.29, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 2306.6015. PERSONNEL. The division director may employ staff as necessary to perform the work of the division and may prescribe their duties and compensation. Subject to applicable personnel policies and regulations, the division director may remove any division employee.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 978, Sec. 24, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Renumbered from Sec. 2306.602 and amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1367, Sec. 1.29, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Sec. 2306.6016. SEPARATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES. The Manufactured Housing Board shall develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policy-making responsibilities of the Manufactured Housing Board and the management responsibilities of the division director and staff of the division.

Recommendation: The MVPCA E&L Committee recommends that MVCPA and TxDMV discuss issue of MVCPA having its own Executive Director with possible consideration in August 2022 or later MVCPA meeting.

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**5.B. Authority to Fund Research on Crime Prevention and Aftermarket Theft
Protection**

MVCPA could provide grants for research on methodologies used by law enforcement. Similar to MVCPA's Bait Car Research Grant to Texas A&M University in FY2020, Taskforce investigators could serve as a resource to researchers in an effort to ensure operational success.

In addition, MVCPA could fund research on aftermarket theft protection solutions. Examples may include the development of vehicles parts that would protect from catalytic converter theft, or new technology related to the emerging trend of electric vehicles. Manufacturer and insurance industry stakeholders would serve as resources in identifying the most viable areas of research.

Recommendation – Continue to study this issue and any possible limitations considering current duties funding shortfalls and performance measures. Consider this issue in future years

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5.C. Authority to develop and fund programs to reduce recidivism

Purpose

The purpose of this initiative is to provide funding for agencies to prevent motor vehicle crime by developing and participating in community-based solutions. The programs must be evidence based, developed on broadly accepted theoretical framework and include restorative justice principles. The program applications must demonstrate community based and people-oriented solutions to motor vehicle crime.

Eligible Applicants

City and County law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices (that have jurisdiction for motor vehicle crime), judicial agencies and not-for-profit agencies. Coalitions of the above agencies are preferred.

Level of Funding

- Single entity application: no less than \$5,000 up to \$25,000
- Multiple/Collaboration Application: No less than \$10,000 up to \$100,000
- The amount requested in an application under this program may not exceed one-half the motor vehicle crime loss value reported by the law enforcement agency in the community to DPS in the preceding year.

Activities and Funding Parameters – Communities including law enforcement develop and propose new ideas that facilitate reduced recidivism of offender arrested or convicted of motor vehicle crime.

Match Required:

- 80/20 split funding model – MVCPA/MAG provides up to 80% and grantee 20%
- In-kind contributions for direct program cost are allowed up to one-half of the match requirement.

Application Considerations

- Application must be accompanied with statement of need, data, and coverage area(s).
- Applications will be evaluated based on merits of need, cost, and program framework, partners, and description.
- Grant is to be used for personnel, operations and basic equipment. Capital expenses and purchases are excluded.
- Expected Outcomes must be provided in the applications. Data must include impact on motor vehicle theft prevention, evidence-based victim and offender satisfaction in the restorative justice system, improved relationship between law enforcement and community.
- If a law enforcement agency is not a sponsor or participant then a letter from the agency indicating the motor vehicle crime loss values submitted to DPS is required.
- Maximum term for a program funded is four years.

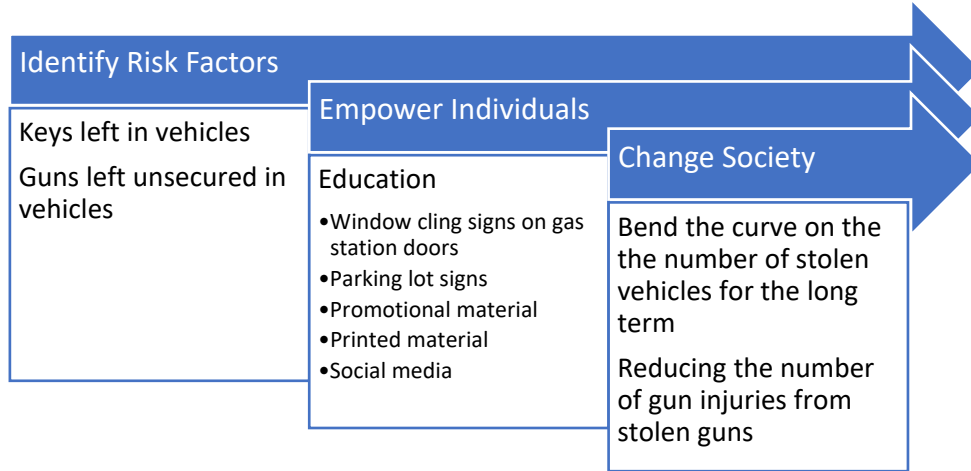
Recommendation – Continue to study this issue and try a small pilot projects to see if statutory support is needed in future years.

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5.D. Improving Education and Messaging on Taking Keys and Guns out of Vehicle

Safe storage of keys and guns is crucial when trying to reduce the number of stolen vehicles and illegal guns that are on the streets. It is a public problem that also requires public solutions.

Changing the Pattern in Vehicle Theft Opportunity



Recommendation – This issue is tied to funding shortage. MVCPA will continue to study this issue and use available funds for Public Education and Public Awareness (PEPA) Grants. Monitor if statutory support is needed in future years.

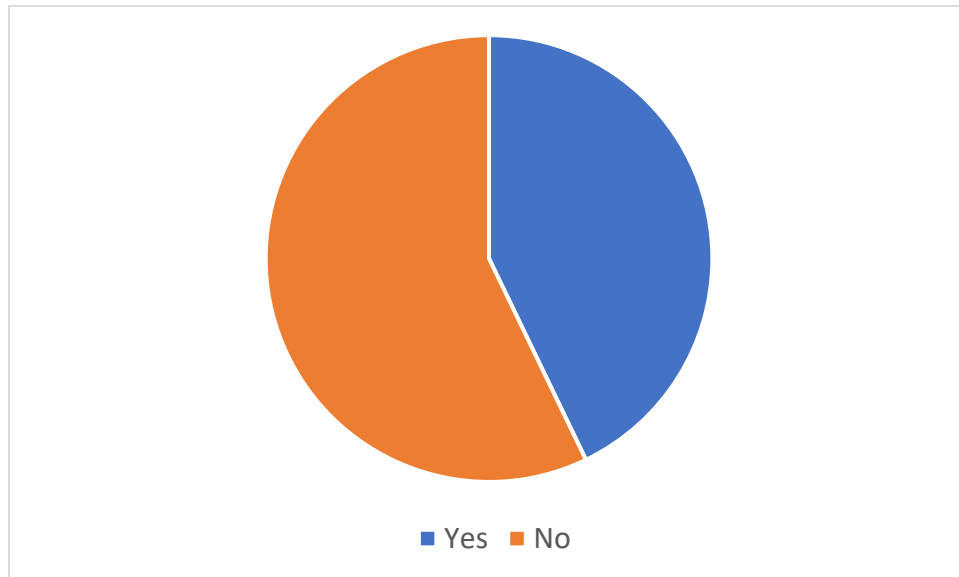
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5. E. Bait Car Coordination

The following information was presented to the MVCPA Board on March 2, 2022. No action was taken by the board.

MVCPA funded a Bait Car Program Study in FY2020 through Texas A&M Public Policy Research Institute. The study was not fully completed; however, the researchers did complete the survey portion and the site visits. They reported, *“Among the findings is a limitation of resources. This limitation plays itself out in two key ways. First, bait car programs are limited in the amount of overtime they can authorize to officers who are on-call during the deployments beyond their normal working hours. This concern can lead to fewer deployments than a program would otherwise employ. Secondly, bait car programs must utilize the cars available to them—whether they match the cars being targeted by criminals or not.* One potential solution would be the creation of a centralized inventory of bait cars managed by the state—most likely through the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. Taking this approach would not only allow jurisdictions to access multiple vehicles, it would also agencies to free-up law enforcement officers who spend considerable amounts of time “building” the bait cars by integrating surveillance equipment and staging the car.”

Figure 2. Does Bait Car Inventory Mirror Top Targets?



In addition to the inventory mirror issue, other issues are:

- 1) the burn rate (the time it takes a community to recognize a car as a bait vehicle)
- 2) The removal or exchange of bait technology; and
- 3) The need to create new titles and licensure for each vehicle or exchange.

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5. E. Bait Car Coordination (continued)

- Bait Car mirroring vehicles that are in the top 5 as being stolen in Texas (includes parts like catalytic converter theft)
- Funding
- Burn rate – rate at which a vehicle becomes recognized as a possible bait vehicle
- Single State Ownership
- Transferable to State operations, local PD/SO
- Single Alias Registration
- Single technology interoperability across Texas
- Liability issues

Recommendation: The MVPCA E&L Committee recommend the TxDMV examine whether alias titles can be issued to TxDMV owned / managed vehicles and consider statutory change if determined that alias titles cannot be issued to TxDMV on behalf of law enforcement agencies.

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- 6. Discuss meetings with Legislators and methods to serve as a resource for legislative committee members and hearings.**

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7. Public Education and Public Awareness Program and Activities (Grantee)

FY22 YTD Progress Report Public Awareness Activities for all Grantees.		
Goal 3: Educate/Train Citizens and Qualified Personnel in Detection and Prevention of Motor Vehicle Theft, Burglary of Motor Vehicles and Theft of Vehicle Parts and Accessories		
Strategy 1: Conduct Public Awareness Related Activities Used to Educate Citizens		
3.1.1	Conduct educational outreach events (include trade show, exhibits, booths at community events, vehicle displays, brochures, etc.)	333
	Number of outreaches	
3.1.2	Conduct educational presentations to the public	
	Number of presentations. Presentation means in person, on-line, original written document, article, or webpage.	185
3.1.3	Number attended educational public presentations	
	Number of participants /attendees	150,852
3.1.4	Conduct vehicle identification initiative/event	
	Number of etching events	41
3.1.4	Conduct vehicle identification initiative/event	
	Number of etching events. Include windows, component parts, VIN stamps and catalytic converters.	653
3.1.5	Purchase advertisements in local outlets	
	Number of advertisements purchased or provided complimentary for taskforce. Include all types of media purchased or provided free (social, tv, utility inserts, billboards, transportation, etc.). Describe in 6.1.1.	19
3.1.6	Conduct vehicle report card initiatives.	3,058
	Number report cards issued	
3.1.7	Utilize social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	
	Number of postings in social media outlets	1,524
3.1.8	Deploy outdoor public notification signage	
	Number of deployments per month (if sign remains several months, count as 1 deployment per month)	2,402
3.1.9	Provide assistance and/or information to individual citizens (phone/e-mail/ other media)	
	Number of citizens requesting assistance for month	35,475
3.1.10	Conduct media outreach, including, public service announcements, press releases, and interviews	837
	Number of outreaches	
Strategy 2: Conduct Law Enforcement Training Activities to Educate Officers on Recognition and Apprehension of Stolen Vehicles and Property		
3.2.1	Conduct law enforcement training (TCOLE)	104
	Number of classes provided for TCOLE credit	
3.2.2	Number attended law enforcement training (TCOLE)	
	Number of participants in class(es) receiving TCOLE credit	2,007
3.2.3	Conduct vehicle crimes presentations to law enforcement agencies (non TCOLE)	
	Number of classes or presentations. Presentations may include electronic roll call documents, shift BOLOs and other written or presented materials based on local practices.	334
3.2.4	Number attended vehicle crimes presentations to law enforcement agencies (non TCOLE)	
	Number of participants receiving information from class or presentation	7,298

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7. Public Education and Public Awareness Program and Activities (MVCPA)

Social Media

To advance the goals of MVCPA and its statutory obligations, MVCPA uses a variety of web-based and social media tools, when appropriate, to obtain information and communicate with grantees, stakeholders, and community members across the state. MVCPA uses social media to educate, inform, and disseminate information based on examined data, verifiable and reliable news sources through – Facebook, Twitter, MVCPA TxDMV website, and link taskforces across the state.

Facebook

This fiscal year thus far, Facebook analytics snapshot shows that MVCPA’s outreach dramatically increased by reaching more than **101,183 people**; this is a significant increase from FY21. The number of page likes and followers have also increased by **302% for a total of 545 followers**. This viewership increase was because of MVCPA’s coordination, participation and active social media engagement.

In addition, the use of illegal or fraudulent Texas license plates across the country generated major interest in social media. Law Enforcement and Citizens were obviously concerned especially with the use of illegal license plates to conceal the identity of vehicles and responded to social media posts on illegal license plates. We linked many news highlights featuring taskforce and other law enforcement operations combatting the use of illegal license plates Facebook page. The MVCPA posted to let vehicle owners know not to buy illegal license plates in English and Spanish reached **52,159 people**. Another significant post shared was the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) Free VIN Check Service which offers tips to prevent purchasing a stolen vehicle when consumers are in the market for a used vehicle. This post reached an audience of **33,727**.

- [Don't Buy Illegal License Plates](#)
- [Dallas PD shuts down fake paper tag operation](#)
- [NICB Free VIN Check tips to prevent purchasing a stolen vehicle](#)

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, dated March 24. The post text is in both English and Spanish, providing information about illegal license plates and how to report them. To the right of the post, the 'Post Insights' section displays the following data:

Metric	Value
Post Impressions	54,553
Post Reach	52,159
Post Engagement	4,258

Below the insights, the 'Interactions' section shows the following counts:

Interaction Type	Count
Reactions	446
Comments	136
Link Clicks	12
Shares	193

Not all the taskforce members have Facebook and Twitter accounts. We have been trying to encourage taskforce members to use their social media platforms more to increase the coverage and impact motor vehicle crime prevention messages. We interact, like and share information relevant to vehicle crimes from the grantee agency of the taskforce as well.

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Grantee Stories:

Catalytic Converter Theft Auto Crimes Taskforce

Sergeant Tracy Hicks of the Houston Auto Crimes Taskforce continues efforts to address the trend of catalytic converter theft in Houston metropolis on Facebook. Hicks said the Houston Police Department has partnered with local businesses with a goal of curbing crimes involving catalytic converters by marking them with the VIN number and high temperature paint.

City of Dallas - Dallas Auto Theft Taskforce

Fraud Related Motor Vehicle Crime (FRMVC)

Through the Dallas PD (DPD) Beat, NBC DFW news and shared by MVCPA, Dallas Department Auto Theft Taskforce informed communities of a major interagency operation between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies targeting individuals utilizing fake license plate paper tags. Vehicles using fictitious temporary license plates or improper temporary license plates, all referred to as eTags, are commonly used in crimes from auto theft to homicides. The operation resulted in 149 traffic stops, 49 citations issued, 42 eTags Seized, 11 vehicles towed, 2 stolen vehicles recovered, 3 arrests, and 4 weapons recovered.

Twitter

MVCPA's Twitter account continues to increase in size and now records 45 active Followers and 72 Tweets and Retweets have been posted, highlighting auto theft news and stories across the state on: auto theft offenders and repeat offenders; stolen vehicles discovered and recovered from criminal gangs and enterprises; persons arrested; fraud related motor vehicle crimes; criminal chop shops and salvage yards; and recently catalytic converter theft news and stories.

Public Education and Public Awareness (PEPA) Grant

The purpose of the PEPA grant is to provide the MVCPA and its funded law enforcement programs with support and coordinated messaging to combat motor vehicle theft, burglary from motor vehicles, and fraud-related motor vehicle crime. This grant opportunity is intended to fund the development of coordinated messaging to use in communication for internet advertising, social media, broadcast media, and print media. Governmental or nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated history of statewide media outreach and communication efforts in Texas are eligible to apply.

The Request for Applications was posted on April 29 with applications due on or before 5:00 PM, May 27, 2022. The grant cycle is a one (1) year funding cycle to begin on the issuance of the grant and end on August 31, 2023. MVCPA may extend the grant period by up to one year and/or provide additional funds subject to the availability of funds.

Print and Marketing Media

For this fiscal year, MVCPA has distributed promotional items and brochures, as well as placed and received orders for items.

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FY22 YTD Education Materials Distributed to Taskforces and Other Law Enforcement

Materials	Number
Printed material (brochures and coloring books)	75,335
Promotional material	7,399
Parking lot signs	7

Y22 Requisitions Submitted by MVCPA

Date	Requisition #	Item	Total Ordered
Printed Material			
10/28/21	11300	Watch Your Car Coloring Book	3,500
10/28/21	11300	5 Tips Auto Crime Prevention Brochure	15,000
10/28/21	11300	25 Tips Auto Crime Prevention Brochure	15,000
Promotional Material			
3/11/22	11673	Sports Car Stress Reliever (TxDMV & MVCPA Logo)	2,000
3/11/22	11673	Car Shaped Pens (TxDMV & MVCPA Logo)	2,500
4/13/22	11778	Sports Car Stress Reliever (TxDMV & MVCPA Logo)	2,000
4/13/22	11778	Car Shaped Pens (TxDMV & MVCPA Logo)	2,500
4/13/22	11778	Car Shaped Key Chains (TxDMV & MVCPA Logo)	1,000

Future Purchases will be dependent on PEPA grant applications.