

HB 1408 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY FUND

SPONSOR: White

This bill creates the Law Enforcement Technology Advancement Fund for the purpose of purchasing equipment or software to improve the law enforcement capabilities of a department.

The fund will be underwritten by a surcharge of \$25 assessed as costs in each criminal court proceeding with exclusions noted in the bill.

The bill prohibits political subdivisions from reducing a law enforcement agency's budget as a result of moneys received from this fund. The disbursement of the moneys in the fund is at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Public Safety. The fund balance must not exceed \$5 million at the end of the fiscal year, excluding amounts in the fund received from private or public grants. The fund sunsets six years after its effective date.

The department must submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing the benefits of the fund.

This bill is similar to HB 828 (2015).