

ASSEMBLY, No. 5352

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 30, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Pilot Program” in DLPS; makes appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/8/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing a Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Pilot
2 Program in the Department of Law and Public Safety and making
3 an appropriation.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Law and Public
9 Safety a two-year “Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Pilot
10 Program,” the purpose of which is to deter auto theft and aid in the
11 recovery of stolen catalytic converters.

12 b. The Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with and
13 subject to the approval of the Attorney General, shall develop a
14 pilot program to mark select catalytic converters with permanent
15 unique identifiers. The superintendent may consult with other law
16 enforcement agencies, insurance companies, scrap metal business
17 operators, and other entities as needed, to identify vehicles most
18 likely to be targeted for theft of catalytic converters, to prioritize
19 areas of the State most targeted for vehicle theft, and to establish
20 which method or methods of marking to employ.

21 c. The superintendent shall create and institute a process to
22 disperse materials purchased for marking vehicles with identifiers
23 pursuant to subsection b. of this section. The process shall include
24 distribution of materials to dealers, mechanics, and vehicle owners,
25 allowing for application by the owner, or by contract with a
26 mechanic at no cost to the vehicle owner. The superintendent shall
27 maintain a registry of employed identifiers and other relevant
28 information gathered for reference in tracing stolen property, or
29 may contract with a company to do so.

30
31 2. The Attorney General shall submit to the Governor, and to
32 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
33 19.1), a report containing an evaluation of the pilot program not
34 more than 30 days following the expiration of the pilot program.
35 The report shall include the number of vehicles in the program, the
36 marking system adopted, the number of catalytic converters
37 recovered, the number of catalytic converters traced back to an
38 original vehicle, and a recommendation on whether law
39 enforcement should continue these efforts beyond the pilot period.

40
41 3. There is appropriated the sum of \$500,000 from the General
42 Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety to effectuate the
43 provisions of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this
44 bill).

45
46 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
47 the filing of the report pursuant to section 2 of this P.L. , c.
48 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

This bill establishes a two-year “Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Pilot Program” in the Department of Law and Public Safety to deter theft and aid in the recovery of stolen property. The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police to identify vehicle models most likely to be targeted for theft of catalytic converters and to prioritize areas of the State most targeted for vehicle theft for participation in the program. Under the bill, certain auto dealers, mechanics, and vehicle owners will be provided with a method to mark a catalytic converter with a unique identifier. The bill requires the superintendent to maintain a registry of program participation to aid in the process of tracing and recovery of stolen property. An appropriation of \$500,000 is made to the Department of Law and Public Safety to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Upon expiration of the pilot program, this bill requires the Attorney General to issue a report to the Governor and Legislature of findings and recommendations.