

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5221

To prevent the theft of catalytic converters and other precious metal car parts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MANN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. BABIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prevent the theft of catalytic converters and other precious metal car parts, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Auto Recy-
5 cling Theft Act” or the “PART Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CATALYTIC CONVERTER DEFINED.**

2 In this Act, the term “catalytic converter” means any
3 of the following:

4 (1) Any device installed in the exhaust system
5 of an internal combustion engine that utilizes cata-
6 lytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon
7 monoxide (CO) emissions to carbon dioxide (CO₂)
8 and water (H₂O).

9 (2) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

10 (3) A diesel particulate filter.

11 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW MOTOR VEHICLES RE-**
12 **LATING TO CATALYTIC CONVERTERS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the National Highway
15 Traffic Safety Administration shall—

16 (1) revise the motor vehicle theft prevention
17 standard in section 541.5 of title 49, Code of Fed-
18 eral Regulations, to include catalytic converters
19 among the parts specified in subsection (a) of such
20 section; and

21 (2) update such regulations as are necessary to
22 ensure that the requirements added by paragraph
23 (1) apply to any vehicle covered by part 565 of such
24 title.

25 (b) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding any provision
26 of chapter 331 of title 49, United States Code, in the case

1 of a vehicle described in paragraph (2) of subsection (a)
 2 that has not been sold to the first purchaser (as defined
 3 in section 33101 of such title), the requirements added
 4 by paragraph (1) of such subsection shall apply to the ve-
 5 hicle beginning on the date that is 6 months after the Sec-
 6 retary makes the revision and updates required by such
 7 subsection, regardless of the model year of the vehicle or
 8 the date on which the vehicle is manufactured.

9 (c) COMPLIANCE.—The identifying number affixed or
 10 inscribed required for catalytic converters under the revi-
 11 sion described in subsection (a)(1) may include a unique
 12 part identification number that is included in a database
 13 that—

14 (1) is accessible by law enforcement; and

15 (2) allows for the retrieval of the full vehicle
 16 identification number of the motor vehicle in which
 17 the catalytic converter was originally installed based
 18 on that part identification number.

19 (d) AMENDMENTS TO ADD DEFINITION OF CATA-
 20 LYTIC CONVERTER.—Section 33101 of title 49, United
 21 States Code, is amended—

22 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
 23 striking “In this chapter—” and inserting “In this
 24 chapter:”;

25 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (11)—

1 (A) by inserting “The Term” after the
2 enumerator; and

3 (B) by adding a paragraph heading the
4 text of which comprises the term defined in the
5 paragraph;

6 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
7 (11) as paragraphs (2) through (12), respectively;
8 and

9 (4) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
10 designated) the following:

11 “(1) CATALYTIC CONVERTER.—The term ‘cata-
12 lytic converter’ means any of the following:

13 “(A) Any device installed in the exhaust
14 system of an internal combustion engine that
15 utilizes catalytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon
16 (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions to
17 carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O).

18 “(B) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

19 “(C) A diesel particulate filter.”.

20 (e) MARKING OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS NOT-
21 WITHSTANDING AN EXEMPTION.—Section 33106 of title
22 49, United States Code, is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”
25 and inserting a semicolon;

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
2 paragraph (4); and

3 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
4 following:

5 “(3) a certification that the catalytic converter
6 will be marked in accordance with sections 33101
7 through 33104, including any associated regulation;
8 and”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR MARKING CATALYTIC CON-
11 VERTERS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
13 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
14 shall promulgate regulations that require a catalytic
15 converter on a vehicle line to be marked conspicu-
16 ously in accordance with sections 33101 through
17 33104, including any associated regulation.

18 “(2) UNIQUE PART IDENTIFICATION NUM-
19 BERS.—In promulgating regulations under para-
20 graph (1), the Administrator of the National High-
21 way Traffic Safety Administration shall allow for a
22 marking described in that paragraph to include a
23 unique part identification number (as defined in sec-
24 tion 33111(b)(3)) that is included in a database that
25 is accessible by law enforcement and that allows for

1 the retrieval of the full vehicle identification num-
2 ber.”.

3 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM FOR VIN STAMPING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
6 portation shall establish a program to provide grants to
7 eligible entities to carry out covered activities, excluding
8 wages, related to catalytic converters.

9 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under
10 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application
11 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-
12 mation as the Secretary may require.

13 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this section, eligible en-
14 tities are the following:

15 (1) Law enforcement agencies.

16 (2) Automobile dealers.

17 (3) Owners and lessees of centrally maintained
18 vehicle fleets.

19 (4) Automobile repair shops and service centers.

20 (5) Nonprofit organizations.

21 (d) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Grant funds provided
22 under this section may be used for equipment and mate-
23 rials necessary to carry out die or pin stamping of either
24 the full vehicle identification number or a unique part
25 identification number in a law enforcement accessible

1 database that allows for the retrieval of the full vehicle
2 identification number onto the outside of the catalytic con-
3 verter in a conspicuous manner on motor vehicles. Such
4 stamping shall be—

5 (1) in a typed font and not handwritten; and

6 (2) covered by applying a coat of high-visibility,
7 high-heat theft deterrence paint.

8 (e) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the program
9 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that each
10 recipient of a grant is able to provide die or pin stamping
11 services described in subsection (d) to the public.

12 (f) PRIORITIZATION.—In making grants under this
13 section, the Secretary shall prioritize—

14 (1) eligible entities operating in the areas with
15 the highest need for die or pin stamping described
16 in subsection (d), including the areas with the high-
17 est rates of catalytic converter theft; and

18 (2) eligible entities that are in possession of
19 motor vehicles that are subject to section 3(b).

20 (g) PROCEDURES FOR MARKING.—In carrying out
21 the program established under subsection (a), the Sec-
22 retary shall issue such regulations as are necessary to es-
23 tablish procedures to mark catalytic converters of vehicles
24 most likely to be targeted for theft with unique identifica-
25 tion numbers using a combination of die or pin stamping

1 and high-visibility, high-heat theft deterrence paint with-
2 out damaging the function of such converter.

3 (h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
5 after for 10 years, the Secretary shall submit to Congress
6 a report on the program established under subsection (a)
7 that includes a description of the progress, results, and
8 any findings of the program, including the total number
9 of catalytic converters marked under the program and, to
10 the extent known, whether any catalytic converters
11 marked under the program were stolen and the outcome
12 of any criminal investigation into the threats.

13 (i) FUNDING.—

14 (1) UNOBLIGATED FUNDING AVAILABLE.—Of
15 the unobligated balances appropriated by the Amer-
16 ican Rescue Plan Act of 2021, \$7,000,000 shall be
17 made available to carry out this section.

18 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
19 the event that the total of \$7,000,000 of the funds
20 described under paragraph (1) may not be made
21 available to carry out this section, there are author-
22 ized to be appropriated to carry out this section an
23 amount equal to the remaining funding necessary to
24 total \$7,000,000.

1 (j) CENTRALLY MAINTAINED VEHICLE FLEET DE-
 2 FINED.—In this section, the term “centrally maintained
 3 vehicle fleet” means a group of vehicles for which each
 4 aspect of management, including maintenance, repair, fuel
 5 management, and vehicle acquisition, is overseen and con-
 6 trolled by a single entity.

7 **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF CATALYTIC**
 8 **CONVERTERS AND RETENTION OF SELLER**
 9 **INFORMATION.**

10 (a) INCLUSION OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS.—Para-
 11 graph (7) of section 33101 of title 49, United States Code
 12 (as redesignated by section 3(d)), is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (K), by striking “; and”
 14 and inserting a semicolon;

15 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (L) as sub-
 16 paragraph (M);

17 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (K), the
 18 following:

19 “(L) the catalytic converter; and”; and

20 (4) in subparagraph (M), as so redesignated, by
 21 striking “subclauses (A)–(K) of this clause” and in-
 22 serting “subparagraphs (A) through (L) of this
 23 paragraph”.

24 (b) RETENTION OF RECORDS.—Section 33111 of
 25 title 49, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), in the subsection heading,
2 by striking “GENERAL REQUIREMENTS” and insert-
3 ing “PROHIBITIONS RELATED TO SELLING MOTOR
4 VEHICLE PARTS”;

5 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
6 subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(b) RETENTION OF RECORDS.—

10 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—A person engaged in the
11 business of salvaging, dismantling, recycling, or re-
12 pairing motor vehicles or motor vehicle parts that
13 contain precious metals shall retain the records of
14 any seller of motor vehicle parts that sells such a
15 part to such person, including the following:

16 “(A) The name, address, telephone num-
17 ber, and a photocopy of a government-issued
18 identification of the seller.

19 “(B) With regard to the motor vehicle or
20 motor vehicle from which the parts came, the
21 following:

22 “(i) The make.

23 “(ii) The model.

24 “(iii) The vehicle identification num-
25 ber or a unique part identification number

1 marked, etched, or engraved on the con-
2 verter that can be tied directly to the vehi-
3 cle identification number of the vehicle.

4 “(iv) The date of purchase.

5 “(2) DURATION OF RETENTION.—Such person
6 shall retain such information for a period of at least
7 two years.

8 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) PRECIOUS METALS.—The term ‘pre-
10 cious metals’ has the meaning given such term
11 in section 109–27.5101 of title 41, Code of
12 Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-
13 tion.

14 “(B) UNIQUE PART IDENTIFICATION NUM-
15 BER.—The term ‘unique part identification
16 number’, with respect to a motor vehicle part,
17 means a unique part identification number
18 that—

19 “(i) is marked, etched, or engraved on
20 the motor vehicle part; and

21 “(ii) is tied directly to the vehicle
22 identification number of the vehicle on
23 which the part was originally installed.”.

24 (c) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF CERTAIN CATALYTIC
25 CONVERTERS.—It shall be unlawful to sell or purchase

1 any catalytic converter which has had identifying mark-
 2 ings removed or otherwise tampered with.

3 (d) TRACEABLE FORM OF PAYMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any purchase or sale of a
 5 catalytic converter shall be made with a traceable
 6 form of payment, including check and wire transfer.

7 (2) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful to sell
 8 or purchase any catalytic converter for cash or
 9 cryptocurrency.

10 (e) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall pre-
 11 scribe regulations to carry out this section and the amend-
 12 ments made by this section, including the enforcement and
 13 penalties that apply to a violation of this section and the
 14 amendments made by this section.

15 **SEC. 6. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

16 (a) THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS.—Chapter
 17 31 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) by adding at the end the following:

19 **“§ 671. Theft of catalytic converters**

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) CATALYTIC CONVERTER.—The term ‘cata-
 22 lytic converter’ means any of the following:

23 “(A) Any device installed in the exhaust
 24 system of an internal combustion engine that
 25 utilizes catalytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon

1 (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions to
2 carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O).

3 “(B) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

4 “(C) A diesel particulate filter.

5 “(2) PRECIOUS METALS.—The term ‘precious
6 metals’ has the meaning given the term in section
7 109–27.5101 of title 41, Code of Federal Regula-
8 tions, or any successor regulation.

9 “(b) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to steal or
10 knowingly and unlawfully take, carry away, or conceal a
11 catalytic converter from the motor vehicle of another per-
12 son, or knowingly purchase such catalytic converter with
13 the intent to distribute, sell, or dispose of the catalytic
14 converter or any precious metal removed therefrom in
15 interstate or foreign commerce.

16 “(c) PENALTY.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who violates
18 subsection (b) shall be fined under this title, impris-
19 oned not more than 5 years, or both.

20 “(2) CONCURRENT SENTENCES.—Any term of
21 imprisonment imposed on a person under paragraph
22 (1) shall run concurrently with any other term of
23 imprisonment imposed on a person at the same time
24 for an offense arising out of the same conduct.”; and

1 (2) in the table of sections for such chapter, by
2 adding at the end of the following:

“671. Theft of catalytic converters.”.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2311 of title 18, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after “for running
5 on land but not on rails;” the following:

6 “‘Precious metals’ has the meaning given the term
7 in section 109–27.5101 of title 41, Code of Federal Regu-
8 lations, or any successor regulation;”.

9 (c) TRAFFICKING IN CAR PARTS CONTAINING PRE-
10 CIOUS METALS.—Section 2321 of title 18, United States
11 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(d) TRAFFICKING IN MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS CON-
13 TAINING PRECIOUS METALS.—

14 “(1) DEFINITION OF CATALYTIC CONVERTER.—
15 In this subsection, the term ‘catalytic converter’
16 means any of the following:

17 “(A) Any device installed in the exhaust
18 system of an internal combustion engine that
19 utilizes catalytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon
20 (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions to
21 carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O).

22 “(B) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

23 “(C) A diesel particulate filter.

24 “(2) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to buy, re-
25 ceive, possess, or obtain control of, with intent to sell

1 or otherwise dispose of, a catalytic converter, know-
2 ing that the catalytic converter has been stolen.

3 “(3) PENALTY.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
5 graph (B), any person who violates paragraph
6 (2) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned
7 not more than 5 years, or both.

8 “(B) CONCURRENT SENTENCES.—Any
9 term of imprisonment imposed on a person
10 under subparagraph (A) shall run concurrently
11 with any other term of imprisonment imposed
12 on the person at the same time for an offense
13 arising out of the same conduct.”.

14 (d) CHOP SHOPS.—Section 2322(b) of title 18,
15 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 “(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
17 term ‘chop shop’ means any building, lot, facility, or other
18 structure or premise where one or more persons engage
19 in receiving, concealing, destroying, disassembling, dis-
20 mantling, reassembling, or storing any motor vehicle or
21 motor vehicle part that has been unlawfully obtained in
22 order to alter, counterfeit, deface, destroy, disguise, fal-
23 sify, forge, obliterate, extract any precious metal there-
24 from, or remove the identify, including the vehicle identi-
25 fication number or derivative thereof, or other identifica-

1 tion marking, of the vehicle or vehicle part and to dis-
2 tribute, sell, or dispose of the vehicle or vehicle part, or
3 precious metal extracted from the vehicle or vehicle part,
4 in interstate or foreign commerce.”.

