

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9904

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the trafficking in catalytic converters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2026

Mr. GILL of Texas (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. VASQUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the trafficking in catalytic converters.

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 “Deputy Darren
5 Almendarez Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRAFFICKING IN CATALYTIC CONVERTERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 113 of title 18, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2321
9 the following:

1 **“§ 2321A. Trafficking in catalytic converters**

2 “(a) OFFENSE.—Except as provided under sub-
3 section (c), whoever, in or affecting interstate commerce,
4 knowingly—

5 “(1) possesses one or more catalytic converters
6 that was removed from a motor vehicle; or

7 “(2) purchases one or more catalytic converters
8 that was removed from a motor vehicle, with the in-
9 tent to distribute, sell, or dispose of such catalytic
10 converter or any precious metal removed from such
11 converter,

12 shall be punished as provided in subsection (b) for each
13 possession or purchase.

14 “(b) PENALTIES.—Whoever commits an offense
15 under subsection (a)—

16 “(1) shall be fined not more than \$100,000, im-
17 prisoned not more than 5 years, or both; and

18 “(2) for a second or subsequent offense under
19 subsection (a), shall be fined not more than
20 \$200,000, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or
21 both.

22 “(c) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—It is an affirmative
23 defense to prosecution under subsection (a) if the person
24 complied with all State and local identification require-
25 ments and record-keeping practices relating to catalytic

1 converters in the State which the transaction occurred
2 and—

3 “(1) the catalytic converter was removed from
4 a motor vehicle by a motor vehicle owner or by the
5 lessee of a leased motor vehicle;

6 “(2) an person possessed or purchased a cata-
7 lytic converter in the ordinary course of their official
8 duties for a motor vehicle manufacturer, distributor,
9 or dealer;

10 “(3) an employee or agent of a person acting in
11 their official duties as a motor vehicle repair facility
12 engaged in diagnosis, service, maintenance, repair,
13 or calibration of a catalytic converter of a motor ve-
14 hicle if the employee or agent does not—

15 “(A) extract any precious metals from the
16 catalytic converter;

17 “(B) remove the identity, including the ve-
18 hicle identification number or derivative thereof,
19 or other identification marking, of such vehicle
20 or catalytic converter; or

21 “(C) distribute, sell, or dispose of the vehi-
22 cle, or catalytic converter, or precious metals
23 extracted from such catalytic converter; or

24 “(4) a metal recycling entity that purchases or
25 otherwise acquires a catalytic converter that was re-

1 moved from a motor vehicle if the person selling the
2 catalytic converter to the metal recycling entity ac-
3 quired the catalytic converter in the ordinary course
4 of business of such entity, including in the ordinary
5 course of business of—

6 “(A) a licensed automotive wrecking and
7 salvage yard;

8 “(B) a registered metal recycling entity;

9 “(C) a licensed motor vehicle manufac-
10 turer, distributor, converter, or dealer, including
11 any department of a dealer or converter that re-
12 pairs or services motor vehicles;

13 “(D) a licensed motor vehicle repair facil-
14 ity;

15 “(E) a licensed used automotive parts re-
16 cycler;

17 “(F) a licensed motor vehicle demolisher;

18 “(G) a school or training program in which
19 students are provided instruction on building,
20 repairing, or restoring motor vehicles;

21 “(H) a Federal, State, or local law enforce-
22 ment agency;

23 “(I) the National Insurance Crime Bureau;

24 “(J) a business that is—

1 “(i) located in and regulated by State
2 or a political subdivision of a State; and

3 “(ii) engaged in an activity relating to
4 catalytic converters that is regulated by a
5 State or a political subdivision of a State;
6 and

7 “(K) a business that—

8 “(i) is located in a jurisdiction outside
9 the United States and operated in a busi-
10 ness form recognized by the laws of that
11 jurisdiction; and

12 “(ii) imports catalytic converters into
13 the United States in accordance with the
14 Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United
15 States published by the U.S. International
16 Trade Commission (or a successor sched-
17 ule).

18 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) CATALYTIC CONVERTER.—The term ‘cata-
20 lytic converter’ means an emission pollution-control
21 device that converts toxic byproducts of combustion
22 in the exhaust of an engine to less toxic substances
23 by means of catalyzed chemical reactions.

24 “(2) DEALER; MOTOR VEHICLE; MOTOR VEHI-
25 CLE DISTRIBUTOR; MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFAC-

1 TURER.—The terms ‘dealer’, ‘motor vehicle’, ‘motor
2 vehicle distributor’, ‘motor vehicle manufacturer’
3 have the meanings given the terms in section 30102
4 of title 49.

5 “(3) METAL RECYCLING ENTITY.—The term
6 ‘metal recycling entity’ means a business that oper-
7 ates from a fixed location and is predominantly en-
8 gaged in—

9 “(A) performing the manufacturing proc-
10 ess by which scrap, used, or obsolete ferrous or
11 nonferrous metal is converted into raw material
12 products consisting of prepared grades and hav-
13 ing an existing or potential economic value, by
14 a method that in part requires the use of pow-
15 ered tools and equipment, including processes
16 that involve processing, sorting, cutting,
17 classifying, cleaning, baling, wrapping, shred-
18 ding, shearing, or changing the physical form of
19 that metal;

20 “(B) using raw material products de-
21 scribed under subparagraph (A) in the manu-
22 facture of producer or consumer goods; or

23 “(C) purchasing or otherwise acquiring
24 scrap, used, or obsolete ferrous or nonferrous

1 metals for the eventual use of the metal for the
2 purposes described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

3 “(4) MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER.—The term
4 ‘motor vehicle dealer’ means a dealer that has an
5 agreement with a motor vehicle manufacturer re-
6 lated to the diagnostics, repair, or service of a motor
7 vehicle.

8 “(5) MOTOR VEHICLE OWNER.—The term
9 ‘motor vehicle owner’—

10 “(A) means a person with a present pos-
11 sessive ownership right in a motor vehicle or a
12 lessee of a motor vehicle; and

13 “(B) does not include a motor vehicle man-
14 ufacturer or a person operating on behalf of a
15 motor vehicle manufacturer, a motor vehicle fi-
16 nancing company, a motor vehicle dealer, or a
17 motor vehicle lessor.

18 “(6) MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR FACILITY.—The
19 term ‘motor vehicle repair facility’ means any person
20 that, in the ordinary course of its business, is en-
21 gaged in the business of diagnosis, service, mainte-
22 nance, repair, or calibration of motor vehicles or
23 motor vehicle equipment.

24 “(7) PRECIOUS METALS.—The term ‘precious
25 metals’ has the meaning given the term in section

1 109–27.5101 of title 41, Code of Federal Regula-
2 tions (or a successor regulation).”.

3 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

4 The table of sections for chapter 113 of title 18, United
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
6 ing to section 2321 the following:

 “2321A. Trafficking in catalytic converters.”.

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