

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2238

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10, 2025

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORENO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF CATALYTIC CONVERTER.**

7 In this Act, the term “catalytic converter” means any  
8 of the following:

9 (1) Any device installed in the exhaust system  
10 of an internal combustion engine that utilizes cata-

1       lytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon  
 2       monoxide (CO) emissions to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)  
 3       and water (H<sub>2</sub>O).

4               (2) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

5               (3) A diesel particulate filter.

6   **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGU-**  
 7                               **LATIONS RELATING TO CATALYTIC CON-**  
 8                               **VERTERS.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
 10   date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the  
 11   National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (referred  
 12   to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall—

13               (1) issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to re-  
 14   vise the motor vehicle theft prevention standard con-  
 15   tained in section 541.5 of title 49, Code of Federal  
 16   Regulations (or a successor regulation), to include  
 17   catalytic converters among the parts specified in  
 18   subsection (a) of that section;

19               (2) issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to re-  
 20   vise part 543 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-  
 21   tions (or successor regulations), to require that, not-  
 22   withstanding the granting of a petition under that  
 23   part, all catalytic converters be marked in accord-  
 24   ance with section 541.5 of that title (as revised pur-  
 25   suant to paragraph (1)); and

1           (3) update other regulations, as necessary, to  
2       ensure that, with respect to catalytic converters, the  
3       requirements of section 541.5 and part 543 of title  
4       49, Code of Federal Regulations (as revised in ac-  
5       cordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively),  
6       apply to any vehicle covered by part 565 of that title  
7       (or successor regulations).

8       (b) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any provision of  
9       chapter 331 of title 49, United States Code, in the case  
10      of a vehicle described in section 565.2 of title 49, Code  
11      of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), that  
12      has not been sold to the first purchaser (as defined in sec-  
13      tion 33101 of title 49, United States Code), the require-  
14      ments added to section 541.5 of title 49, Code of Federal  
15      Regulations (or a successor regulation), by the Adminis-  
16      trator in accordance with paragraph (1) of subsection (a)  
17      shall apply to the vehicle beginning on the date that is  
18      180 days after the date on which the Administrator makes  
19      the revisions and updates required by that subsection, re-  
20      gardless of the model year of the vehicle or the date on  
21      which the vehicle is manufactured.

22       (c) DEFINITION OF CATALYTIC CONVERTER.—Sec-  
23      tion 33101 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—  
24           (1) in each of paragraphs (1) through (11)—

1 (A) by inserting “The term” after the  
2 paragraph designation; and

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

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

9 (3) in the matter preceding paragraph (2) (as  
10 so redesignated), by striking “chapter—” and in-  
11 serting the following: “chapter:

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

14 “(A) Any device installed in the exhaust  
15 system of an internal combustion engine that  
16 utilizes catalytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon  
17 (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions to  
18 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O).

19 “(B) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

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

21 (d) MARKING OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS NOT-  
22 WITHSTANDING AN EXEMPTION.—Section 33106 of title  
23 49, United States Code, is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

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

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
6 following:

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

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

12 “(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR MARKING CATALYTIC CON-  
13 VERTERS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
15 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
16 shall promulgate regulations requiring catalytic con-  
17 verters on a vehicle line to be marked in accordance  
18 with sections 33101 through 33104, including asso-  
19 ciated regulations.

20 “(2) UNIQUE PART IDENTIFICATION NUM-  
21 BERS.—In promulgating regulations under para-  
22 graph (1), the Administrator of the National High-  
23 way Traffic Safety Administration shall allow for a  
24 marking described in that paragraph to include a  
25 unique part identification number (as defined in sec-

tion 33111(b)(1)) that is included in a database that  
is accessible by law enforcement.”.

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

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered activity”, with respect to a motor vehicle, means die or pin stamping of an identification number described in subparagraph (B) on the outside of the catalytic converter in a conspicuous manner.

(B) IDENTIFICATION NUMBER DESCRIBED.—An identification number referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

(i) the full vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle in which the catalytic converter was originally installed; or

(ii) a unique part identification number that is included in a database that—

(I) is accessible by law enforcement; and

(II) allows for the retrieval of the full vehicle identification number of the motor vehicle in which the catalytic converter was originally installed

1 based on that part identification num-  
2 ber.

3 (C) STAMPING.—For purposes of subpara-  
4 graph (A), the term “stamping” means stamp-  
5 ing—

6 (i) in a typed (not handwritten) font;  
7 and

8 (ii) covered through the application of  
9 a coat of high-visibility, high-heat theft de-  
10 terrence paint.

11 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
12 ty” means—

13 (A) a law enforcement agency;

14 (B) an automobile dealer;

15 (C) an owner or lessee of a centrally main-  
16 tained vehicle fleet;

17 (D) an automobile repair shop and service  
18 center; and

19 (E) a nonprofit organization.

20 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
21 the Secretary of Transportation.

22 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
24 tablish a program to provide grants to eligible entities to

1 carry out covered activities (excluding wages) relating to  
2 catalytic converters.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
4 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the  
5 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,  
6 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-  
7 quire.

8 (d) REQUIREMENT.—A covered activity carried out  
9 with a grant awarded under this section shall be carried  
10 out at no cost to the owner of—

- 11 (1) the motor vehicle being stamped; or  
12 (2) any motor vehicle otherwise receiving serv-  
13 ice from an eligible entity.

14 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
15 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to—

- 16 (1) eligible entities operating in areas with the  
17 highest need for covered activities, including the  
18 areas with the highest rates of catalytic converter  
19 theft, as determined by the Secretary; and

- 20 (2) eligible entities that are in possession of  
21 motor vehicles that are subject to the requirement  
22 described in section 3(b).

23 (f) PROCEDURES FOR MARKING.—In carrying out  
24 the grant program under this section, the Secretary shall  
25 issue such regulations as are necessary to establish proce-



1 dures to mark catalytic converters of vehicles most likely  
2 to be targeted for theft with unique identification numbers  
3 using a combination of die or pin stamping and high-visi-  
4 bility, high-heat theft deterrence paint without damaging  
5 the function of the catalytic converter.

6 (g) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter  
8 for 10 years, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-  
9 port on the grant program established under subsection  
10 (b) that includes a description of the progress, results, and  
11 any findings of the grant program, including—

12 (1) the total number of catalytic converters  
13 marked under the grant program; and

14 (2)(A) to the extent known, whether any cata-  
15 lytic converters marked under the grant program  
16 were stolen; and

17 (B) the outcome of any criminal investigation  
18 relating to those thefts.

19 (h) FUNDING.—

20 (1) UNOBLIGATED FUNDING AVAILABLE.—Of  
21 the unobligated amounts appropriated by the Amer-  
22 ican Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2;  
23 135 Stat. 4), \$7,000,000 shall be made available to  
24 carry out this section.

1           (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In  
 2           the event that the total of \$7,000,000 of the funds  
 3           described in paragraph (1) may not be made avail-  
 4           able to carry out this section, there is authorized to  
 5           be appropriated to carry out this section an amount  
 6           equal to the remaining funding necessary to total  
 7           \$7,000,000.

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

11           (a) INCLUSION OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS.—Sec-  
 12           tion 33101(7) of title 49, United States Code (as redesign-  
 13           nated by section 3(c)), is amended—

14                   (1) in subparagraph (K), by striking “and”  
 15                   after the semicolon at the end;

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

18                   (3) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the fol-  
 19                   lowing:

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

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

1 (b) RETENTION OF RECORDS.—Section 33111 of the  
 2 title 49, United States Code, is amended—

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

7 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
 8 subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
 10 lowing:

11 “(b) RETENTION OF RECORDS.—

12 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13 “(A) PRECIOUS METALS.—The term ‘pre-  
 14 cious metals’ has the meaning given the term in  
 15 section 109–27.5101 of title 41, Code of Fed-  
 16 eral Regulations (or a successor regulation).

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

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

1                   “(ii) is tied directly to the vehicle  
2                   identification number of the vehicle on  
3                   which the part was originally installed.

4                   “(2) REQUIREMENT.—A seller of motor vehicle  
5                   parts that contain precious metals, including a per-  
6                   son engaged in the business of salvaging, disman-  
7                   tling, recycling, or repairing motor vehicle parts that  
8                   contain precious metals, shall provide to a purchaser  
9                   on the sale of the motor vehicle part—

10                   “(A) the name, address, telephone number,  
11                   and a photocopy of a government-issued identi-  
12                   fication of the seller; and

13                   “(B) the vehicle identification number of  
14                   the motor vehicle on which the motor vehicle  
15                   part was originally installed or the unique part  
16                   identification number.

17                   “(3) DURATION OF RETENTION.—A person  
18                   shall retain the information described in paragraph  
19                   (2) for a period of not less than 2 years.”.

20                   (c) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF CERTAIN CATALYTIC  
21                   CONVERTERS.—It shall be unlawful to sell or purchase  
22                   any catalytic converter which has had identifying mark-  
23                   ings removed or otherwise tampered with.

24                   (d) TRACEABLE FORMS OF PAYMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any sale or purchase of a  
 2 catalytic converter shall be made with a traceable  
 3 form of payment, such as a check or a wire transfer.

4 (2) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful to sell  
 5 or purchase a catalytic converter for cash or a dig-  
 6 ital asset.

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

## 12 **SEC. 6. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

13 (a) THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS.—Chapter  
 14 31 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

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

### 16 **“§ 671. Theft of catalytic converters**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

20 “(A) Any device installed in the exhaust  
 21 system of an internal combustion engine that  
 22 utilizes catalytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon  
 23 (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions to  
 24 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O).

25 “(B) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

1                   “(C) A diesel particulate filter.

2                   “(2) PRECIOUS METALS.—The term ‘precious  
3           metals’ has the meaning given the term in section  
4           109–27.5101 of title 41, Code of Federal Regula-  
5           tions, or any successor regulation.

6           “(b) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to steal or  
7           knowingly and unlawfully take, carry away, or conceal a  
8           catalytic converter from another person’s motor vehicle,  
9           or knowingly purchase such a catalytic converter, with the  
10          intent to distribute, sell, or dispose of the catalytic con-  
11          verter or any precious metal removed therefrom in inter-  
12          state or foreign commerce.

13           “(c) PENALTY.—

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

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

23                   (2) in the table of sections, by adding at the  
24           end the following:

“671. Theft of catalytic converters.”.

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

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

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

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

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

15 “(A) Any device installed in the exhaust  
 16 system of an internal combustion engine that  
 17 utilizes catalytic action to oxidize hydrocarbon  
 18 (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions to  
 19 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O).

20 “(B) A diesel oxidation catalyst.

21 “(C) A diesel particulate filter.

22 “(2) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to buy, re-  
 23 ceive, possess, or obtain control of, with intent to sell  
 24 or otherwise dispose of, a catalytic converter, know-  
 25 ing that the catalytic converter has been stolen.

1 “(3) PENALTY.—

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

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

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

14 “(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
15 term ‘chop shop’ means any building, lot, facility, or other  
16 structure or premise where 1 or more persons engage in  
17 receiving, concealing, destroying, disassembling, disman-  
18 tling, reassembling, or storing any motor vehicle or motor  
19 vehicle part that has been unlawfully obtained in order to  
20 alter, counterfeit, deface, destroy, disguise, falsify, forge,  
21 obliterate, extract any precious metal therefrom, or re-  
22 move the identity, including the vehicle identification num-  
23 ber or derivative thereof, or other identification marking,  
24 of the vehicle or vehicle part and to distribute, sell, or dis-  
25 pose of the vehicle or vehicle part, or precious metal ex-



- 1 tracted from the vehicle or vehicle part, in interstate or
- 2 foreign commerce.”.

