

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3186

To make it unlawful to alter or remove the identification number of a
mobile device.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2012

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To make it unlawful to alter or remove the identification
number of a mobile device.

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 “Mobile Device Theft
5 Deterrence Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. ALTERING OR REMOVING CELLULAR TELEPHONE**
7 **IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 25 of title 18, United
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

1 **“§ 515. Altering or removing mobile device identifica-**
2 **tion numbers**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

4 “(1) the term ‘manufacturer’ means a person
5 who has lawfully obtained the right to assign a mo-
6 bile device identification number to a mobile device
7 before the initial sale of the mobile device; and

8 “(2) the term ‘mobile device identification num-
9 ber’ means an international mobile equipment iden-
10 tity number, electronic serial number, or any other
11 number or signal that identifies a specific mobile
12 wireless communications device.

13 “(b) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in sub-
14 section (d), it shall be unlawful to—

15 “(1) knowingly remove, obliterate, tamper with,
16 or alter a mobile device identification number; or

17 “(2) knowingly use, produce, traffic in, have
18 control or custody of, or possess hardware or soft-
19 ware, knowing it has been configured to engage in
20 the conduct described in paragraph (1).

21 “(c) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection
22 (b) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more
23 than 5 years, or both.

24 “(d) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to
25 the manufacturer of a mobile device or a person who re-
26 pairs or refurbishes a mobile device unless the manufac-

1 turer or person knows that the mobile device or part in-
2 volved is stolen.”.

3 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

4 The table of sections for chapter 25 of title 18, United
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
6 ing to section 514 the following:

“515. Altering or removing mobile device identification numbers.”.

