



House Bill 118

Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to the sale and possession of used detached catalytic converters; and establishing the crime of possession, sale, or purchase of a used detached catalytic converter."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles has soared. Auto insurers are publishing warnings as they process millions of dollars in losses. In between the years of 2019 and 2022, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) had seen a catalytic converter theft spike of over 1,200%.

According to the NICB, in 2019, only 3,389 catalytic converter thefts were reported nationwide. In 2020, the reported number spiked to 14,433. In 2021, the number went up to 65,400, and in 2022, the numbers skyrocketed up to 153,000 reported stolen converters. It is important to note that these numbers only come from reported policyholders' claims. These numbers are considered very underreported for two reasons;

- 1) the amount of people without car insurance who cannot file a claim; and,
- 2) if a police report was made before the insurance claim, it was officially documented under missing car parts, not specific to catalytic converter theft.

Thirty-two states have adopted or amended laws to combat catalytic converter theft, and 11 more states are anticipated to at least introduce legislation to combat thefts, by requiring identifying information for anyone trying to sell used catalytic converters.

House Bill 118 gives statutory authority to Alaska law enforcement to charge and prosecute individuals unlawfully possessing used catalytic converters. It also requires businesses and individuals purchasing used catalytic converters to document and maintain information about persons possessing and selling used catalytic converters to said business.

COMMITTEES

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