

HB 2902 -- AUTOMOBILE THEFT

SPONSOR: Mayhew

UNLAWFUL USE OF CERTAIN KEY DEVICES (Section 570.097)

This bill provides that the manufacture, sale, attempted sale, transfer, or possession of a motor vehicle key programming or emulating device, or a relay attack device, as such terms are defined in the bill, will be a class D felony. The bill provides exceptions for certain authorized users.

Any authorized user must report a lost or stolen device within 48 hours of becoming aware that the device was lost or stolen. Failure to comply with this reporting requirement will be a class A misdemeanor.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COMMISSION ACT (Sections 589.220 to 589.227)

This bill establishes the "Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Commission Act" and creates the "Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Program" within the Department of Public Safety.

The bill authorizes law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants to apply for grants to assist in improving and supporting the Program, or programs for the enforcement of prosecution of motor vehicle theft crimes.

The Program will be overseen by the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Commission, which is established by the bill. The Commission will consist of 12 members, with membership composition specified in the bill. The general term of office for each member of the Commission appointed by the Governor will be four years, but initial appointments will be staggered, shorter terms. The State Highway Patrol will provide all administration, management, and organization of the Commission's activities.

The Commission will establish the grant program, promote statewide planning and coordination of the investigation and prosecution of motor vehicle crimes, provide support to local prosecutors, and provide support to multi-jurisdictional task forces, as described in the bill.

The Commission can award grants with a term of up to three years. Any grants awarded pursuant to the bill by the Commission must receive approval from the Director of the Department of Public Safety prior to any allocation. Priority will be given to applications representing multi-jurisdictional programs.

On or before December 1, 2027, any law enforcement agency or other qualified applicant that receives a grant pursuant to the bill must submit a report to the Commission concerning the implementation of the Program funded by the grant.

On or before February 1, 2028, the Commission must report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programs receiving grants pursuant to the bill, as specified in the bill.

This bill contains a sunset clause.

This bill is similar to SB 1181 (2026).