

Legislative Analysis



ELECTRONIC DEVICE OR TOOL USED TO STEAL VEHICLE

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 870 (proposed substitute H-2)
Sponsor: Sen. Jim Runestad
House Committee: Judiciary
Senate Committee: Judiciary and Public Safety
Complete to 9-27-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 870 would amend the Michigan Penal Code to make it a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, for an individual to intentionally possess an *electronic device or tool* that is designed or adapted to unlock or turn on a motor vehicle with the intent to steal a motor vehicle.

Electronic device or tool would mean a device or tool with the purpose of unlocking or turning on a motor vehicle. The term would not include a previously issued activated electronic card, key, or other electronic device assigned to the vehicle's lawful owner.

The bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

MCL 750.116

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 870 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and on local units of government. To the extent provisions of the bill result in an increase in felony convictions, the bill would result in increased costs related to state prisons and state probation supervision.

In fiscal year 2021, the average cost of prison incarceration in a state facility was roughly \$44,400 per prisoner, a figure that includes various fixed administrative and operational costs. State costs for parole and felony probation supervision averaged about \$4,600 per supervised offender in the same year. Those costs are financed with state general fund/general purpose revenue.

Any fiscal impact on the judiciary and local court systems would depend on how provisions of the bill affect court caseloads and related administrative costs. It is difficult to project the actual fiscal impact to courts due to variables such as law enforcement practices, prosecutorial practices, judicial discretion, case types, and complexity of cases. Any increase in penal fine revenue would increase funding for public and county law libraries, which are the constitutionally designated recipients of those revenues.

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