

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Emerging Issues

This bill modifies the requirements of notice for sale by an operator of a self-service storage facility for the sale of personal property of an occupant in default. In addition to advertising in the classified section of a newspaper prior to sale, the operator may also and instead advertise in any other commercially reasonable manner. The advertisement is commercially reasonable if at least three independent bidders attend the sale.

The bill specifies that it is unlawful for a person to solicit payment of money by any writing that could be considered a bill, invoice, or statement of account due, but is in fact a solicitation for an order, unless the solicitation meets the requirements specified in the bill, including a disclaimer printed on the face of the solicitation. Any person damaged by the noncompliance of this section is entitled to damages in an amount equal to three times the sum solicited.

The bill requires a salvage license from the Department of Revenue pursuant to Sections 301.217 through 301.229, RSMo, to engage in the buying or selling of catalytic converters.

The bill requires scrap metal dealers and others regulated under Section 407.300 to require proof that the seller of a detached catalytic converter is a bona fide automobile repair shop or an affidavit that the converter was lawfully acquired. The make, model, year, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the converter originated will be required and maintained for four years. Records will be submitted at least monthly to the Department of Revenue on a form provided by the Department in either a paper or electronic format as specified in the bill.

Currently, anyone who knowingly purchases a stolen catalytic converter in violation of this section shall be subject to penalties as provided in the section. This bill removes the requirement that the purchaser knows the catalytic converter is stolen and provides anyone convicted of violating this section is guilty of a class E felony in addition to being subject to having any business license under Section 301.218 revoked.

The bill clarifies that minor parts of heating and cooling equipment and equipment used in the generation and transmission of electrical power or telecommunications, including any catalytic converter of such equipment, remains subject to the provisions of Section 407.300.

The bill adds that a person commits the offense of stealing under Section 570.030 if, for the purpose of depriving the owner of a lawful interest therein, he or she receives, retains, or disposes of a catalytic converter and knows it has been stolen, believes it has been stolen, or reasonably should have suspected that such property was stolen.

The bill establishes the offense of unlawful possession of a detached catalytic converter under Section 570.031. This offense is a class E felony. A person commits the offense of unlawful possession of a detached catalytic converter if the person possesses a catalytic converter with the intent to sell unless:

- (1) The catalytic converter is possessed in the course of legitimate business;
- (2) The catalytic converter is a component or constituent part of an item or equipment owned by the individual; or
- (3) The possession of the catalytic converter is for some other lawful purpose.

Currently, whoever engages in the sale of certain items, specified in the bill, on Sunday is guilty of a misdemeanor. The bill specifies that the sale of these certain items, except for motor vehicles, on a Sunday no longer constitutes an offense.