

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

**S.F. No. 5**

(SENATE AUTHORS: MARTY, Mohamed, Dziedzic, Fateh and Latz)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/04/2023	71	Introduction and first reading Referred to Commerce and Consumer Protection
01/09/2023	116	Author added Latz
02/08/2023		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary and Public Safety

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to public safety; establishing requirements for the purchase or acquisition
- 1.3 of catalytic converters; providing for penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022,
- 1.4 sections 325E.21, subdivisions 1, 1b, 2, 4, 5, 6, by adding subdivisions; 609.5316,
- 1.5 subdivision 3.
- 1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- 1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this
- 1.9 subdivision have the meanings given.
- 1.10 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of commerce.
- 1.11 (c) "Law enforcement agency" or "agency" means a duly authorized municipal, county,
- 1.12 state, or federal law enforcement agency.
- 1.13 (d) "Person" means an individual, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability
- 1.14 company, corporation, or other entity.
- 1.15 (e) "Scrap metal" means:
- 1.16 (1) wire and cable commonly and customarily used by communication and electric
- 1.17 utilities; and
- 1.18 (2) copper, aluminum, or any other metal purchased primarily for its reuse or recycling
- 1.19 value as raw metal, including metal that is combined with other materials at the time of
- 1.20 purchase, but does not include a scrap vehicle as defined in section 168A.1501, subdivision
- 1.21 1.

2.1 (f) "Scrap metal dealer" or "dealer" means a person engaged in the business of buying  
2.2 or selling scrap metal, or both. The terms include a scrap metal processor, as described in  
2.3 section 168.27, subdivision 3a.

2.4 The terms do not include a person engaged exclusively in the business of buying or selling  
2.5 new or used motor vehicles, paper or wood products, rags or furniture, or secondhand  
2.6 machinery.

2.7 (g) "Seller" means any seller, prospective seller, or agent of the seller.

2.8 (h) "Proof of identification" means a driver's license, Minnesota identification card  
2.9 number, or other identification document issued for identification purposes by any state,  
2.10 federal, or foreign government if the document includes the person's photograph, full name,  
2.11 birth date, and signature.

2.12 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, subdivision 1b, is amended to read:

2.13 Subd. 1b. **Purchase or acquisition record required.** (a) ~~Any person who purchases or~~  
2.14 ~~receives a catalytic converter must comply with this section.~~

2.15 ~~(b)~~ Every scrap metal dealer, including an agent, employee, or representative of the  
2.16 dealer, shall create a permanent record written in English, using an electronic record program  
2.17 at the time of each purchase or acquisition of scrap metal. The record must include:

2.18 (1) a complete and accurate account or description, including the weight if customarily  
2.19 purchased by weight, of the scrap metal purchased or acquired;

2.20 (2) the date, time, and place of the receipt of the scrap metal purchased or acquired and  
2.21 a unique transaction identifier;

2.22 (3) a photocopy or electronic scan of the seller's proof of identification including the  
2.23 identification number;

2.24 (4) the amount paid and the number of the check or electronic transfer used to purchase  
2.25 or acquire the scrap metal;

2.26 (5) the license plate number and description of the vehicle used by the person when  
2.27 delivering the scrap metal, including the vehicle make and model, and any identifying marks  
2.28 on the vehicle, such as a business name, decals, or markings, if applicable;

2.29 (6) a statement signed by the seller, under penalty of perjury as provided in section  
2.30 609.48, attesting that the scrap metal is not stolen and is free of any liens or encumbrances  
2.31 and the seller has the right to sell it;

3.1 (7) a copy of the receipt, which must include at least the following information: the name  
3.2 and address of the dealer, the date and time the scrap metal was received by the dealer, an  
3.3 accurate description of the scrap metal, and the amount paid for the scrap metal;

3.4 (8) in order to purchase or acquire a detached catalytic converter, the vehicle identification  
3.5 number of the car it was removed from or, as an alternative, any numbers, bar codes, stickers,  
3.6 or other unique markings that result, whether resulting from the pilot project created under  
3.7 subdivision 2b or some other source. The alternative number must be under a numbering  
3.8 system that can be immediately linked to the vehicle identification number by law  
3.9 enforcement; and

3.10 (9) the ~~name of the person who removed the catalytic converter~~ identity or identifier of  
3.11 the employee completing the transaction.

3.12 ~~(e)~~ (b) The record, as well as the scrap metal purchased or ~~received~~ acquired, shall at  
3.13 all reasonable times be open to the inspection of any properly identified law enforcement  
3.14 officer.

3.15 ~~(d)~~ (c) Except for the purchase or acquisition of detached catalytic converters, no record  
3.16 is required for property purchased or acquired from merchants, manufacturers, salvage  
3.17 pools, insurance companies, rental car companies, financial institutions, charities, dealers  
3.18 licensed under section 168.27, or wholesale dealers, having an established place of business,  
3.19 or of any goods purchased or acquired at open sale from any bankrupt stock, but a receipt  
3.20 as required under paragraph ~~(b)~~ (a), clause (7), shall be obtained and kept by the person,  
3.21 which must be shown upon demand to any properly identified law enforcement officer.

3.22 ~~(e)~~ (d) The dealer must provide a copy of the receipt required under paragraph ~~(b)~~ (a),  
3.23 clause (7), to the seller in every transaction.

3.24 ~~(f)~~ (e) The commissioner of public safety and law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction  
3.25 where a dealer is located may conduct regular and routine inspections and audits as necessary  
3.26 to ensure compliance, refer violations to the city or county attorney for criminal prosecution,  
3.27 and notify the registrar of motor vehicles.

3.28 ~~(g)~~ (f) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a scrap metal dealer or the dealer's  
3.29 agent, employee, or representative may not disclose personal information concerning a  
3.30 customer without the customer's consent unless the disclosure is required by law or made  
3.31 in response to a request from a law enforcement agency. A scrap metal dealer must implement  
3.32 reasonable safeguards to protect the security of the personal information and prevent  
3.33 unauthorized access to or disclosure of the information. For purposes of this paragraph,

4.1 "personal information" is any individually identifiable information gathered in connection  
4.2 with a record under paragraph (a).

4.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

4.4 Subd. 2. **Retention required.** Records required to be maintained by ~~subdivision~~  
4.5 subdivisions 1a ~~or~~, 1b, 11, 12, and 13 shall be retained by the scrap metal dealer for a period  
4.6 of three years.

4.7 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

4.8 Subd. 4. **Registration required.** (a) Every scrap metal dealer shall register annually  
4.9 with the commissioner of public safety.

4.10 (b) The scrap metal dealer shall pay to the commissioner of public safety a \$50 annual  
4.11 fee.

4.12 (c) The names and addresses of scrap metal dealers registered under this subdivision are  
4.13 public data on individuals, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 15, and must be provided  
4.14 by the commissioner of public safety upon request.

4.15 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

4.16 Subd. 5. **Training.** Each scrap metal dealer shall review the educational materials  
4.17 provided by the superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension under section  
4.18 299C.25 and ensure that all employees do so as well. A scrap metal dealer engaged in the  
4.19 purchase or acquisition of used catalytic converters shall ensure employees handling catalytic  
4.20 converter transactions are specifically trained and familiar with the additional requirements  
4.21 for catalytic converters.

4.22 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

4.23 Subd. 6. **Criminal penalty.** ~~A scrap metal dealer, or the agent, employee, or~~  
4.24 ~~representative of the dealer;~~ (a) Anyone who intentionally violates a provision of this section,  
4.25 except for subdivision 11, 12, or 13, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

4.26 (b) A person who violates subdivision 11, 12, or 13 is guilty of a:

4.27 (1) misdemeanor for possession, purchase, or acquisition of one catalytic converter;

4.28 (2) gross misdemeanor for possession, purchase, or acquisition of two catalytic converters;

5.1 (3) felony for possession, purchase, or acquisition of three to ten catalytic converters,  
5.2 which felony is punishable by imprisonment for not more than five years, payment of a fine  
5.3 of not more than \$10,000, or both;

5.4 (4) felony for possession, purchase, or acquisition of 11 to 70 catalytic converters, which  
5.5 felony is punishable by imprisonment for not more than ten years, by payment of a fine of  
5.6 not more than \$20,000, or both; and

5.7 (5) felony for possession, purchase, or acquisition of 71 or more catalytic converters,  
5.8 which felony is punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years, by payment of a  
5.9 fine of not more than \$100,000, or both.

5.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2023, and applies to crimes  
5.11 committed on or after that date.

5.12 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
5.13 read:

5.14 Subd. 11. **Prohibition on possessing catalytic converters; exception.** (a) It is unlawful  
5.15 for a person to possess a used catalytic converter that is not attached to a motor vehicle  
5.16 except when:

5.17 (1) the converter is marked with the date the converter was removed from the vehicle  
5.18 and the identification number of the vehicle from which the converter was removed or an  
5.19 alternative number to the vehicle identification number; or

5.20 (2) the converter has been EPA certified for reuse as a replacement part.

5.21 (b) If an alternative number to the vehicle identification number is used, it must be under  
5.22 a numbering system that can be immediately linked to the vehicle identification number by  
5.23 law enforcement. The marking of the vehicle identification or alternative number may be  
5.24 made in any permanent manner, including but not limited to an engraving or use of permanent  
5.25 ink. The marking must clearly and legibly indicate the date removed and the vehicle  
5.26 identification number or the alternative number and the method by which law enforcement  
5.27 can link the converter to the vehicle identification number.

5.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2023, and applies to crimes  
5.29 committed on or after that date.

6.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
6.2 read:

6.3 Subd. 12. **Prohibition.** It is unlawful for a person who is not a registered scrap metal  
6.4 dealer to purchase or acquire a used catalytic converter that is not EPA certified for reuse  
6.5 as a replacement part except when the catalytic converter is attached to a motor vehicle. A  
6.6 used catalytic converter that is EPA certified for reuse as a replacement part may be sold  
6.7 to a person or business for reuse as a replacement part for a motor vehicle when the  
6.8 requirements of subdivision 11 are met.

6.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2023, and applies to crimes  
6.10 committed on or after that date.

6.11 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 325E.21, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
6.12 read:

6.13 Subd. 13. **Purchase or acquisition of catalytic converters.** (a) It is unlawful for a scrap  
6.14 metal dealer to purchase or acquire a used catalytic converter not attached to a motor vehicle  
6.15 unless the converter is marked as required under subdivision 11 and the seller provides a  
6.16 copy of the vehicle's title or registration in order to demonstrate the seller's ownership  
6.17 interest in the property. A bona fide business engaged in vehicle dismantling, vehicle  
6.18 demolishing, scrap metal recycling, or automotive repair services may remove a converter  
6.19 as part of auto repair work or auto recycling without a copy of the vehicle's title or  
6.20 registration, if the business provides:

6.21 (1) the identity of the seller's business and a written or electronic signature of the seller;

6.22 (2) an itemized list of each detached catalytic converter being sold that includes the  
6.23 donor vehicle identification number or a unique alternative number that can be readily linked  
6.24 to the vehicle identification number by law enforcement; and

6.25 (3) the date of the removal of each catalytic converter.

6.26 The registered scrap metal dealer purchasing or acquiring the catalytic converters must keep  
6.27 the transaction record, along with the identity and signature of the employee completing  
6.28 the transaction.

6.29 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a scrap metal dealer may purchase or acquire a  
6.30 catalytic converter from a person possessing an old vehicle that is no longer registered and  
6.31 titled without a copy of the registration or title, if the person has an official law enforcement  
6.32 report stating that the agency has verified the person's ownership prior to the removal of  
6.33 the converter from the vehicle.

7.1 (c) A scrap metal dealer who purchases or acquires a used catalytic converter not attached  
 7.2 to a motor vehicle must record the information received under this subdivision and  
 7.3 subdivision 11, including the vehicle identification number or alternative number and the  
 7.4 method by which law enforcement can link the converter to the vehicle identification number;  
 7.5 make the information available upon request to law enforcement; and, effective beginning  
 7.6 August 1, 2024, enter the information into an electronic database available to a law  
 7.7 enforcement agency as approved by the commissioner of public safety.

7.8 (d) A scrap metal dealer is prohibited from processing, selling, or removing a catalytic  
 7.9 converter from the dealer's premises for at least seven days after the catalytic converter  
 7.10 purchase or acquisition by the scrap metal dealer.

7.11 (e) A payment for a catalytic converter must not be made until at least five days after  
 7.12 sale to the scrap metal dealer. Payment must be sent by check to the seller's address or a  
 7.13 bank account in the seller's name.

7.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2023, and applies to crimes  
 7.15 committed on or after that date.

7.16 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.5316, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

7.17 **Subd. 3. Weapons, telephone cloning paraphernalia, automated sales suppression**  
 7.18 **devices, catalytic converters, and bullet-resistant vests.** Weapons used are contraband  
 7.19 and must be summarily forfeited to the appropriate agency upon conviction of the weapon's  
 7.20 owner or possessor for a controlled substance crime; for any offense of this chapter or  
 7.21 chapter 624, or for a violation of an order for protection under section 518B.01, subdivision  
 7.22 14. Bullet-resistant vests, as defined in section 609.486, worn or possessed during the  
 7.23 commission or attempted commission of a crime are contraband and must be summarily  
 7.24 forfeited to the appropriate agency upon conviction of the owner or possessor for a controlled  
 7.25 substance crime or for any offense of this chapter. Telephone cloning paraphernalia used  
 7.26 in a violation of section 609.894, and automated sales suppression devices, phantom-ware,  
 7.27 and other devices containing an automated sales suppression or phantom-ware device or  
 7.28 software used in violation of section 289A.63, subdivision 12, are contraband and must be  
 7.29 summarily forfeited to the appropriate agency upon a conviction. A catalytic converter  
 7.30 possessed in violation of section 325E.21 is contraband and must be summarily forfeited  
 7.31 to the appropriate agency upon a conviction.

7.32 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2023, and applies to crimes  
 7.33 committed on or after that date.