



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 22-0124	Date:	August 15, 2022
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Ginal; Hisey Rep. Bird; Benavidez	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: **RECERTIFICATION & THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates new bases for crimes related to catalytic converters. It may increase state and local revenue and will increase state expenditures beginning in FY 2022-23.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill modifies crimes related to catalytic converters, which are elements of a car's exhaust system that make exhaust gas less polluting.

Salvaging metals. Current law requires the owner of a salvage yard, junk collector, or other business that purchases commodity metals to keep a record of all transactions involving commodity metals. The bill applies these same requirements to transactions involving detached catalytic converters. The penalty for violating these provisions depends on the value of the transaction. For a single catalytic converter, the offense will range from a petty offense to a class 1 misdemeanor.

Operating a chop shop. The bill clarifies that a catalytic converter is major component motor vehicle part for the purposes of establishing the crime of operating a chop shop. The penalty for selling, transferring, or transporting an illicit part under this provision is a class 5 felony.

Comparable Crime Analysis

Legislative Council Staff is required to include certain information in the fiscal note for any bill that creates a new crime, changes the classification of an existing crime, or creates a new factual basis for an existing crime. The following sections outline data on crimes that are comparable to the offense in this bill and discuss assumptions on future rates of criminal convictions resulting from the bill.

Salvaging metals. This bill creates a new factual basis for the existing offense of failing to keep a book or register by expanding the definition of commodity metals. From FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-21, zero offenders have been sentenced and convicted for this offense; therefore, the fiscal note assumes that there will continue to be minimal or no additional criminal case filings or convictions for this offense under the bill.

Operating a chop shop. This bill clarifies the existing offense of transporting, sells, transfers, or purchases an unlawfully obtained major component motor vehicle part from a chop shop by specifying that a catalytic converter is such a part. From FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-21, 5 individuals have been convicted and sentenced for this offense. Of the persons convicted, all were male. Demographically, 4 were White and 1 was Hispanic. However, it is likely that offenses concerning catalytic converters were already convicted under these provisions; therefore, the fiscal note assumes that there will be minimal or no additional criminal case filings or convictions for this offense under the bill.

Visit leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes for more information about criminal justice costs in fiscal notes.

State Revenue and Expenditures

Judicial Department. Based on the assumptions above, this analysis assumes that there may be a minimal impact on state revenue and expenditures. Under the bill, criminal fines and fees, which are subject to TABOR, may increase by a minimal amount. Similarly, any increase in workload and costs for the Judicial Department, including the trial courts, Division of Probation, and agencies that provide representation to indigent persons, and to the Department of Corrections, are assumed to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

Local Government

Similar to the state, it is expected that any workload or cost increase for district attorneys to prosecute more offenses, or for county jails to imprison more individuals under the bill will be minimal. District attorney offices and county jails are funded by counties.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 7, 2022.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology
Public Health and Environment

Judicial
Revenue