

SENATE BILL 54

Unofficial Copy  
E4

1998 Regular Session  
8lr6023

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee (Departmental - State  
Police, Dept. of)**

Requested: October 8, 1997

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 1998

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Possession of Vehicle Identification Numbers**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the possession of certain manufactured serial  
4 numbers or vehicle identification plates or labels; providing certain penalties;  
5 altering the penalties for certain offenses relating to manufacturers' serial  
6 numbers; and generally relating to removing or defacing serial numbers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
9 Section 389  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

15 389.

16 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, deface or obliterate any  
17 manufacturer's serial number punched or affixed by plate to any manufactured  
18 article or product where the intent or purpose is to prevent the tracing or  
19 identification of said article or product.

20 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to retain in his possession or  
21 to offer for sale any manufactured article or product from which the manufacturer's  
22 serial number has been so removed, defaced or obliterated.

23 (C) IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON:

24 (1) TO SELL OR POSSESS STOLEN:

25 (I) MANUFACTURED SERIAL NUMBERS; OR

1 (II) VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION PLATES OR LABELS; OR

2 (2) TO POSSESS MANUFACTURED SERIAL NUMBERS OR VEHICLE  
3 IDENTIFICATION PLATES OR LABELS WITH THE INTENT FOR THE SERIAL NUMBERS  
4 OR VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION PLATES OR LABELS TO BE AFFIXED TO STOLEN  
5 PROPERTY OR TO BE USED FOR FRAUDULENT PURPOSES.

6 [(c)] (D) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be deemed  
7 guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than  
8 [\$300.00] \$500 or imprisoned not exceeding [one year] 18 MONTHS or be both fined  
9 and imprisoned for each and every offense.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
11 effect October 1, 1998.