



Missouri House of Representatives

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Missouri House Passes Bill Combating Catalytic Converter Theft and Modernizing Self-Storage Sales

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The House of Representatives passed HB 1948, a significant piece of legislation aimed at modernizing the process of self-storage sales and cracking down on catalytic converter theft. Sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew, the bill garnered widespread bipartisan support and is set to bring about crucial changes to the way self-storage facilities operate and catalytic converters are bought and sold within the state.

The bill, which received approval from the House, introduces several key provisions to adapt to the changing landscape of commerce and address emerging challenges:

- **Advertising Requirements:** The bill allows operators of self-service storage facilities to advertise sales of personal property of defaulting occupants in any commercially reasonable manner, in addition to advertising in newspapers. This change acknowledges the shift in how people consume information, with more reliance on online platforms rather than traditional newspapers.
- **Catalytic Converter Regulations:** The bill introduces regulations regarding the buying and selling of catalytic converters. It requires a salvage license from the Department of Revenue for engaging in such transactions and mandates scrap metal dealers to verify the legality of catalytic converters being sold to them. Detailed records about the converters' origin and vehicle information must be maintained and submitted to the Department of Revenue.
- **Penalties for Catalytic Converter Theft:** The bill toughens penalties for knowingly purchasing stolen catalytic converters. It removes the requirement that the purchaser must know the converter is stolen and establishes a class E felony for violating these regulations. This aims to deter theft and illegal trade of catalytic converters.
- **Expansion of Theft Offenses:** The bill establishes offenses related to stealing and unlawful possession of catalytic converters under existing theft statutes, making it a felony offense.

Upon the bill's passage, Representative Mayhew, R-Crocker, expressed his satisfaction, stating, "HB 1948 represents a crucial step forward in modernizing our state's regulations surrounding self-storage sales and addressing the growing issue of catalytic converter theft. By embracing digital advertising methods and implementing stricter regulations, we are taking proactive measures to protect consumers and businesses alike."

Each year hundreds of Missourians have to deal with the theft of their catalytic converter, the replacement of which can cost thousands of dollars. Mayhew said that's all the more reason that such thefts should carry a heavier penalty, and by increasing it, more converter thieves could end up in court based drug treatment programs, which is often exactly what they need.

"Making these thefts a felony offense will allow the courts to get these individuals into drug courts, something they can't do now, while it's only a misdemeanor. A lot of time these thefts are carried out by someone who is feeding a habit," Mayhew said.

House Speaker Dean Plocher commended the bipartisan effort behind the bill, saying, "The passage of HB 1948 underscores the commitment of the House to address pressing issues facing our communities. This legislation reflects our collective dedication to fostering a safer and more efficient environment for businesses and consumers across the state."

HB 1948 will now proceed to the Senate for further consideration.

Representative Don Mayhew, a Republican, represents parts of Miller and Pulaski counties (District 124) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2018. For more information, please contact Rep. Mayhew's office at 573-751-3604 or by email at Don.Mayhew@House.Mo.Gov.

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