

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Gardner and others

Subject: Helping law enforcement catch scrap metal thieves

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Overview

The purpose of this bill is to help law enforcement agencies apprehend and prosecute scrap metal thieves. It would require scrap metal dealers to keep records of their purchases of scrap metal and make those records available to law enforcement agencies. The bill expands an existing law that is limited to only cable and wire of a type used by utility companies.

Section

1 Dealers in scrap metal; records, reports, and registration.

Subd. 1. Purchase or acquisition record required. Requires scrap metal dealers to keep records of purchases. Expands an existing law, which is limited to purchases of cable and wire used by utility companies, to include purchases of all scrap metal as defined in the bill. Requires that dealers keep records of each purchase, including what was purchased, when and where it was purchased, the name and address of the person who sold or delivered it, the number of the check used to purchase the scrap metal, the number of the driver's license of the person who sold or delivered it, and the license number of the vehicle used to deliver it. Requires that the records and the scrap metal purchased (if the dealer still has it) be available for inspection by law enforcement officers. Exempts certain types of purchases, if the dealer retains a bill of sale or other evidence of the purchase. Makes technical changes to reflect the new definitions added in subdivision 6.

Subd. 2. Sheriff's copy of record required. Makes technical changes to reflect the

definitions added in subdivision 6. This existing provision requires dealers who buy wire and cable used by utility companies to report their purchases weekly to the county sheriff. This bill has the effect of extending this requirement to include all scrap metal as defined in subdivision 7.

Subd. 3. Retention required. Adds a reference to the new subdivision 5, requiring use of video cameras.

Subd. 4. Payment by check required. Requires that scrap metal dealers pay for scrap metal only by check.

Subd. 5. Video security cameras required. Requires that dealers install, maintain, and keep in operation during business hours, video surveillance cameras located so as to show the customer and the customer's vehicle. Subdivision 3 requires that the dealers keep the films or other video format for three years.

Subd. 6. Registration required. Requires scrap metal dealers to register with the commissioner of public safety. Provides for a registration fee.

Subd. 7. Definitions. Defines the terms law enforcement agency, person, scrap metal, and scrap metal dealer.

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Appropriation. Appropriates money to the commissioner of public safety for purposes of the registration required by the bill.