

STATE OF NEW YORK

8883

IN SENATE

January 13, 2026

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to establishing the "New York state vehicle security circumvention device act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new article 12-E to read as follows:

ARTICLE 12-E

NEW YORK STATE VEHICLE SECURITY CIRCUMVENTION DEVICE ACT

Section 399-aa. Short title.

399-bb. Legislative intent.

399-cc. Definitions.

399-dd. Prohibited acts.

399-ee. Reporting of lost or stolen vehicle security circumvention devices.

399-ff. Penalties.

399-gg. Severability.

§ 399-aa. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York state vehicle security circumvention device act".

§ 399-bb. Legislative intent. In two thousand twenty-four, over eight hundred fifty thousand vehicles were stolen, often by organized crime rings. Motor vehicle key programming or emulating devices and relay attack devices are increasingly used by thieves to steal vehicles. A motor vehicle key programming or emulating device is a device used to electronically communicate with a motor vehicle to program a blank key fob or emulate a key fob for the purpose of starting and operating the vehicle. A relay attack device is a device used to intercept a key fob signal to unlock and/or remotely activate the ignition of a motor vehicle. Prohibiting the manufacturing, sale, offering to sell, or possession of the devices outside of lawful and reasonable purposes will help align vehicle theft statutes with 21st century criminal tactics and provide law enforcement the necessary tools they need to combat car thieves using today's most sophisticated technology.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 The vehicle security circumvention device act prohibits the unlawful
2 manufacturing, possession, transfer, or sale of a motor vehicle key
3 programming or emulating device or relay attack device. It requires a
4 person lawfully authorized to possess a motor vehicle key programming or
5 emulating device or relay attack device to report to law enforcement
6 within forty-eight hours a lost or stolen device. This act establishes
7 criminal penalties to combat auto theft.

8 § 399-cc. Definitions. As used in this article, the following terms
9 shall have the following meanings:

10 1. "Motor vehicle key programming or emulating device" means any
11 device, computer program, application, or software designed or used to
12 electronically communicate with a motor vehicle for the purpose of
13 programming or emulating a motor vehicle key fob that is capable of
14 being used to unlock or start the motor vehicle.

15 2. "Relay attack device" means any device, computer program, applica-
16 tion, or software designed or used to intercept the signal from the key
17 fob of a motor vehicle to unlock or start the motor vehicle.

18 § 399-dd. Prohibited acts. No person shall knowingly manufacture,
19 sell, offer to sell, transfer, or possess a motor vehicle key program-
20 ming or emulating device or relay attack device, or aid or permit another
21 to use a motor vehicle key programming or emulating device or relay
22 attack device. This section shall not apply to the manufacturing, sale,
23 offering to sell, transfer, possession, or use of a motor vehicle key
24 programming or emulating device or relay attack device for a lawful and
25 reasonable purpose by or to a law enforcement officer, an employee of
26 the National Insurance Crime Bureau, or an employee of a licensed: deal-
27 er, distributor or manufacturer of motor vehicles or motor vehicle
28 locks; motor vehicle mechanic shop; locksmith company; or repossession
29 agency.

30 § 399-ee. Reporting of lost or stolen vehicle security circumvention
31 devices. A person authorized to possess a motor vehicle key programming
32 or emulating device or relay attack device shall report a lost or stolen
33 motor vehicle key programming or emulating device or relay attack device
34 within forty-eight hours of becoming aware that such device was lost or
35 stolen to a law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction in which the
36 device is known or thought to be lost or stolen.

37 § 399-ff. Penalties. Any person convicted of an offense committed
38 under section three hundred ninety-nine-dd of this article shall be
39 guilty of a class E felony. Any person who fails to report under section
40 three hundred ninety-nine-ee of this article shall be subject to a fine
41 of up to five thousand dollars or a class A misdemeanor.

42 § 399-gg. Severability. If any provision of this act or its applica-
43 tion to any person, legal entity, or circumstance is held invalid, the
44 remainder of this act or the application of the provision to other
45 persons, legal entities or circumstances shall not be affected.

46 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.