

Dr. Terry Johnson

State Senator

14th District



Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 242

Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee

October 22nd, 2025

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 242.

This is a reworking of SB 165 from the 135th GA. Since that previous bill's introduction, my office and I have worked extensively with interested parties on refining this legislation, keeping our intent tough on crime while also maintaining the integrity of the scrap industry. Taking input from the Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, and the Ohio Chapter of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, SB 242 represents our best possible effort in address the scourge of catalytic converter theft.

Within Ohio, catalytic converter theft remains a prevalent issue, as many of you have probably heard from your constituents and communities. In 2022, Ohio police reported that in a 14-month period, as many as 13,000 catalytic converters had been stolen in one theft ring alone, totaling roughly \$19 million in damages.¹ These converters are valuable and serve an essential

¹ [Police: Theft ring stole some 13,000 catalytic converters worth \\$19M in central Ohio, Columbus Dispatch, 2022](#)

environmental function to vehicles, but are unfortunately easy for potential thieves to access. Once thieves have removed the catalytic converter, they can sell the part at a scrap yard and make a significant profit.

According to State Farm Insurance, Ohio still ranks 7th in the United States for the most catalytic converter theft claims.² While the data suggests catalytic converter theft is indeed on the decline since its post-pandemic surge, I don't believe any of us want to see Ohio anywhere even near the top 25 of theft claims in the nation.

This legislation addresses the issue in several ways:

- Specifically classifies catalytic converter theft as a felony in the fifth degree, and a felony in the fourth degree for repeat offenders, as well as including fines ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per offense.
- Extends liability to scrapyards who receive a stolen catalytic converter as a felony in the fifth degree, and a felony in the fourth degree for repeat offenders, with similar fines as mentioned previously.
- Expands the definition of catalytic converter to include diesel cores and particulate filters as it relates to our truckers and vital logistical supply chain.
- Entrusts our scrap metal dealers with the purchase and sale of bulk catalytic converter transfers, with collaboration from DPS to track suspicious sales which may occur through an already existing reporting registry.
- Fosters communication and transparency between DPS and local law enforcement on the crackdown of suspicious catalytic converter sales and incentives its pursuance.

² [State Farm Catalytic Converter Theft Claims, 2024](#)

- Expands the authority of DPS to ensure both licensed and unlicensed scrap yards are operating lawfully, with the ability to revoke licenses or apply fines to those who are convicted.
- Requires the Attorney General to create the Catalytic Converter Task Force under the Organized Crime Investigations Commission to further assist law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting this crime.

These steps are crucial to preventing the theft of catalytic converters and empowering local law enforcement to go after those who break the law. Thank you again for your time and attention. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.