

By Legislators Dondorfer and Hebert

Intro No. 354

LOCAL LAW NO. 9 OF 2021

ENACTING A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "REGULATING SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. Part IV, General Local Laws of Monroe County, is hereby amended to add a new chapter to include the following Local Law:

CHAPTER 385, REGULATING SALE OF USED CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

§ 385-1. Title.

This Chapter shall be known as the law "Regulating Sale of Used Catalytic Converters."

§ 385-2. Legislative Intent.

- A. This Legislature hereby finds that the County of Monroe has experienced an increase in thefts of used catalytic converters from vehicles in our community and their resale to scrap metal recyclers.
- B. This Legislature finds that requiring scrap metal recyclers doing business in Monroe County to delay payments to sellers of used catalytic converters for at least 14 days after receipt will allow law enforcement additional time to investigate the theft of used catalytic converters and discourage criminal conduct.
- C. This Legislature also finds that requiring scrap metal recyclers to maintain records of the purchase of used catalytic converters will aid law enforcement in the investigation of thefts of such devices.

§ 385-3. Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter to discourage the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles in Monroe County by requiring scrap metal recyclers doing business in Monroe County to delay payments to sellers of used catalytic converters for at least 14 days after receipt and requiring scrap metal recyclers to maintain records of the purchase of such devices for three years in order to aid law enforcement in the investigation of the theft of such devices.

§ 385-4. Definitions. As used in this section:

- A. "Catalytic Converter" means a catalytic converter or other equipment or feature constituting an operational element of a motor vehicle's air pollution control system or mechanism required by federal or state law or by any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, as amended from time to time.
- B. "Repair Shop" means a business enterprise that repairs vehicles and is certified by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

- C. "Scrap Metal Recycler" means a vehicle dismantler, salvage pool, mobile car crusher, itinerant vehicle collector or scrap processor doing business in Monroe County; but shall not include a dealer registered pursuant to section four hundred fifteen of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law, an insurance company, a governmental agency, a person in whose name a certificate of title, registration or other ownership document has been issued for the vehicle from which the Used Catalytic Converter was removed, or a Repair Shop.
- D. "Used Catalytic Converter" means a Catalytic Converter that was previously installed in a vehicle and which has been removed from such vehicle in whole or in part.

§ 385-5. Prohibition.

No Scrap Metal Recycler shall purchase or take possession of, including for purposes of recycling or rebuilding, a Used Catalytic Converter from any person or entity other than a dealer registered pursuant to section four hundred fifteen of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, an insurance company, a governmental agency, a person in whose name a certificate of title or other ownership document has been issued for the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed, a Repair Shop, or a person registered or certified or issued an identification number for the vehicle under the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

§385-6. Maintenance of Records by Scrap Metal Recycler.

- A. Each Scrap Metal Recycler who purchases or takes possession of, including for purposes of recycling or rebuilding, a Used Catalytic Converter shall record the purchase of the Used Catalytic Converter documenting the date of purchase, the name of seller, the seller's address or, in the case that the seller is an individual, the seller's residence address by street, number, city, village or town, the seller's driver's license number or information from a government issued photographic identification card, if any, or by such description as will reasonably locate the seller, or, if the seller is a Repair Shop, the Repair Shop's New York State Department of Motor Vehicles certification number. Such record shall be preserved by the Scrap Metal Recycler for a period of three years from the date of receipt of the Used Catalytic Converter. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement authority with jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.
- B. Each Scrap Metal Recycler shall cause the record of purchase of the Used Catalytic Converter to be signed by the seller or his or her agent. It shall be unlawful for any seller or agent to refuse to furnish such information or to furnish incorrect or incomplete information. The Scrap Metal Recycler shall make and retain a copy of the government issued photographic identification card used to verify the identity of the person from whom the Used Catalytic Converter was purchased or obtained and shall retain the copy in a separate book, register or electronic archive for three years from the date of purchase. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

§385-7. Payments.

Payments by any Scrap Metal Recycler to a business, agency or private citizen who turns in a catalytic converter for scrap will be issued through check, with a copy of the check being held by the Scrap Metal Recycler for three years from the date of disbursement. Such records shall be available for inspection by any law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

§385-8. **Violations.**

- A. Any person that violates this Chapter shall: (i) be guilty of a class A misdemeanor; and (ii) upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$300 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.
- B. This Chapter shall be enforced by any local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the Scrap Metal Recycler.

§385-9. **Severability.**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or chapter thereof directly involved in the proceeding in which such adjudication shall have been rendered. This local law shall not supersede any applicable state or federal laws or regulations with regard to the subject matters set forth herein.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 27 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

Agenda/Charter Committee; July 25, 2021 – CV: 4-0
Public Safety Committee; July 26, 2021 – CV: 8-0
File No. 21-0258.LL

ADOPTION: Date: September 14, 2021

Vote: 20-7

*(Legislators Bauroth, Baynes, Maffucci, Morelle, Jr., Roman, Wilcox
and Yudelson Voted in the Negative.)*

DISAPPROVED by County Executive Adam J. Bello on October 14, 2021 via file no. 21-0392.

RECONSIDERED, REPASSED, AND ADOPTED by the Monroe County Legislature on November 9, 2021 via Motion No. 114 of 2021 in accordance with Section 21 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.