



DEPARTMENT OF
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JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

March 30, 1990

Law and Legislation Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION LEGISLATION

SUMMARY

Senate Bill No. 2312 by Senator Lockyear is an example of anti-vehicle theft legislation needed by the State of California. It sets future standards for the auto industry that will reduce crime and the monetary losses caused by auto theft. The Sacramento Police Department and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce presented the initial concept to the legislature during the recent State Capitol Visit '90. We request that the Law and Legislation Committee adopt a motion supporting this bill.

BACKGROUND

In 1988, Sacramento reported a total of 5,774 auto thefts, or a 49.5% Increase from 1987. In 1989 there were 6,734 Auto Thefts in Sacramento, another 16% increase.

Vehicle thefts cost insurance companies and the insured in Sacramento an estimated \$8 million per year. The major reason for increased thefts is the ease with which vehicle security devices are defeated. Vehicles costing thousands of dollars are protected by the cheapest of locks. These locks are surrounded by plastic which is easily broken. Some foreign vehicle keys are easily altered to fit an entire model series. Simple dent pullers, purchased at a local auto parts store, can pull locks out of doors and ignition assemblies.

The California Legislature should establish standards for effective vehicle locks. Existing technology, similar to dialing a touch-tone telephone, can be used to make it almost impossible to start a vehicle without a special key or a specific encoder procedure.

While such systems could cost from \$100 to \$200 per vehicle, if installed at the time of construction, it may be the ultimate method to reduce the number of auto thefts. Standards should be adopted which would improve the security of motor vehicles, thus protecting the investment of our citizens.

Legislation is needed for the California Department of Transportation to set needed standards. Senate Bill No. 2312 is an example of a vehicle anti-theft standard which will protect the ignition and door locks from operation by unauthorized persons.

FINANCIAL DATA

None

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

None

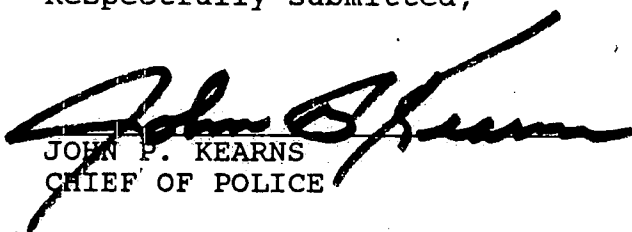
MBE/WBE EFFORTS

None

RECOMMENDATION

Support Senate Bill No. 2312

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

Contact person to answer questions:

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Ref. #3-85

Introduced by Senator Lockyer

February 27, 1990

An act to add Section 28086 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2312, as introduced, Lockyer. Vehicles: antitheft devices.

Existing law states that a motor vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm system.

This bill would require each private passenger motor vehicle manufactured on or after an unspecified date and offered for original sale in this state to have an electronic antitheft system designed to protect the ignition and door locks. A violation would be an infraction punishable by a specified fine, thus the bill would impose a state-mandated local program by creating a new crime.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 28086 is added to the Vehicle
2 Code, to read:

3 28086. (a) Every private passenger motor vehicle, as
4 defined in subdivision (c) of Section 27315, offered for
5 original sale in this state which is manufactured on or
6 after September 1, 199__, shall be equipped with an
7 electronic antitheft system designed to protect the
8 ignition and door locks from operation by unauthorized
9 persons.

10 (b) Any motor vehicle manufacturer who sells or
11 delivers a private passenger motor vehicle subject to
12 subdivision (a) which is not in compliance with that
13 subdivision is guilty of an infraction and shall be punished
14 by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for
15 each sale or delivery of a noncomplying vehicle.

16 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act
17 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
18 Constitution because the only costs which may be
19 incurred by a local agency or school district will be
20 incurred because this act creates a new crime or
21 infraction, changes the definition of a crime or infraction,
22 changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, or
23 eliminates a crime or infraction. Notwithstanding Section
24 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise
25 specified in this act, the provisions of this act shall become
26 operative on the same date that the act takes effect
27 pursuant to the California Constitution.

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