

House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee

February 27, 2025

2nd substitute SB 133 – Metal Purchase and Theft Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Todd Weiler

Floor Sponsor: Representative Ryan Wilcox

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill concerns the purchase and theft of metal including catalytic converters.

Discussion: The original Bill of SB 133 grouped catalytic converters with other metals, which effectively reduced the penalties for catalytic converter theft and removed catalytic converter purchasers from the requirements outlined in the Pawnshop, Secondhand Merchandise, and Catalytic Converter Transaction Information Act (“Act”). The 1st substitute attempted to address this by exempting catalytic converter purchasers from these requirements of the Act only if the purchase price was below \$100. However, this approach was problematic, as nearly all catalytic converters would likely be purchased for \$99 or less. In practice, stolen catalytic converters are often sold quickly for cash at prices below their actual value.

The adopted 2nd substitute refines the Bill’s language by eliminating the \$100 threshold for catalytic converter purchases. While it still reduces penalties in certain cases by removing provisions that classified catalytic converter theft as a third-degree felony regardless of value or weight, theft would now be considered a third-degree felony if the value exceeds \$1,500 but is less than \$5,000. Theft valued at over \$5,000 would remain a second-degree felony. The sponsor acknowledged that the 2nd substitute is a scaled-back version of the original Bill, with the removed provisions set to be studied during the interim.

Nathan Mutter, representing the Law Enforcement Legislative Committee, expressed appreciation to the sponsor for collaborating with law enforcement to address their concerns in the second substitute and voiced support for the Bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: 2nd substitute SB 133 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.