

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 891\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/12/05

Short Title: Master Keys/Lock-Picking Devices Regulated.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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March 24, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE POSSESSION OF MOTOR VEHICLE MASTER KEYS AND OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE LOCK-PICKING DEVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 14-56A. Preparation to commit breaking or entering into motor vehicles.**

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Manipulative key" means a key, device or instrument, other than a key that is designed to operate a specific lock, that can be variably positioned and manipulated in a vehicle keyway to operate a lock or cylinder or multiple locks or cylinders, including a wiggle key, jiggle key, or rocket key.

(2) "Master key" means a key that operates all the keyed locks or cylinders in a similar type or group of locks.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to possess any motor vehicle master key, manipulative key, or other motor vehicle lock-picking device or hot wiring device, with the intent to commit any felony, larceny, or unauthorized use of a motor propelled conveyance.

(c) It is unlawful for a person to willfully buy, sell, or transfer a motor vehicle master key, manipulative key or device, key-cutting device, lock pick or lock-picking device, or hot wiring device, designed to open or capable of opening the door or trunk of any motor vehicle or of starting the engine of a motor vehicle for use in any manner prohibited by this section.

(d) Violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor. A second or subsequent violation of this section is a Class I felony.

(e) This section shall not apply to any person who is a dealer of new or used motor vehicles, a car rental agent, a locksmith, an employee of a towing service, an employee of an automotive repair business, a person who is lawfully repossessing a

1 vehicle, or a state, county, or municipal law enforcement officer, when that person is  
2 acting within the scope of the person's official duties or employment. This section shall  
3 not apply to a business which has a key-cutting device located and used on the premises  
4 for the purpose of making replacement keys for the owner or person who is in lawful  
5 custody of a vehicle."

6           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2005, and applies to  
7 offenses committed on or after that date.