

SENATE No. 223

To accompany the petition of Laurence Curtis for legislation to regulate the penalties for the stealing or unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles and of number plates of motor vehicles. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT REGULATING THE PENALTIES FOR THE STEALING OR UNLAWFUL USE OR POSSESSION OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND OF NUMBER PLATES OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section twenty-eight of chapter two hundred and
2 sixty-six of the General Laws, as appearing in the
3 Tercentenary Edition, is hereby amended by inserting
4 at the end the following new paragraph: —

5 Whoever steals, or aids or abets the stealing, from an
6 automobile or motor cycle a number plate attached
7 thereto, or defaces, alters, changes, destroys, obliterate
8 ates or mutilates, or causes to be in any way defaced,
9 altered, changed, obliterated or mutilated, a number
10 plate attached to an automobile or motor cycle, or
11 attaches or permits to be attached to an automobile
12 or motor cycle a number plate knowing that such
13 plate was stolen, defaced, altered, changed, obliterated
14 or mutilated, or operates or causes or permits any other

15 person to operate an automobile or motor cycle knowing
16 that a number plate attached thereto has been stolen,
17 defaced, altered, changed, obliterated or mutilated,
18 or, except in the discharge of police or other public
19 duties, has in his possession in any place or carries
20 under his control in a vehicle a number plate or any
21 part thereof, knowing that such number plate or part
22 thereof was stolen, defaced, altered, changed, oblit-
23 erated or mutilated, or without the authority of the
24 owner operates an automobile or motor cycle, shall
25 be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for
26 not more than three years, or by imprisonment in a
27 jail or house of correction for not more than two and
28 one half years, or by a fine of not more than five
29 hundred dollars.