

SENATE No. 325

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SENATE, March 11, 1925.

The joint committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred so much of the final report of the joint special legislative committee appointed to investigate and study the various problems relating to the control supervision and regulation of motor vehicles, their use of the highways, the regulation of speed of motor vehicles, the construction of a subway system and parking accommodations in the city of Boston for automobile traffic, and kindred matters (Senate, No. 285) as relates to compulsory liability insurance; police and the lesser offences; authority of police officers; defacing of motors; perfecting amendments; traffic courts and title law, report in part the accompanying Bill (Senate, No. 325).

For the committee,

WALTER SHUEBRUK.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Five.

An Act relative to the Wrongful Removal, Change or Obliteration of Serial Numbers of Motor Vehicles or of the Engines thereof.

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 1. Chapter ninety of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by inserting after sec-
3 tion thirty-two the following new section: —

4 *Section 32A.* When the serial number of a
5 motor vehicle or of the engine of a motor vehicle
6 has been removed, defaced, altered, changed,
7 destroyed, obliterated or mutilated, the registrar
8 may issue to any person applying therefor a
9 certificate authorizing the replacement upon such
10 motor vehicle or upon the engine of such motor
11 vehicle of its original serial number or of the
12 serial number designated by him, which serial
13 number shall thereafter be regarded as that
14 properly to be used for purposes of registration
15 and identification of said motor vehicle.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter two hundred and sixty-
2 six of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-
3 serting after section one hundred and thirty-eight
4 the following new section: —

5 *Section 139.* Whoever removes, defaces, alters,

6 changes, destroys or mutilates, or causes to be
7 removed or destroyed or in any way defaced,
8 altered, changed or mutilated, the serial number,
9 if any, affixed to a motor vehicle by the maker
10 thereof, or the serial number, if any, so affixed to
11 the engine of a motor vehicle, with intent thereby
12 to conceal the identity of such motor vehicle, or
13 whoever, except in cases where a certificate has
14 been issued under section thirty-two A of chapter
15 ninety sells or otherwise disposes of or attempts to
16 sell or otherwise dispose of a motor vehicle,
17 knowing or having reason to believe that the
18 serial number of said motor vehicle or of the
19 engine thereof has been so removed, defaced,
20 altered, changed, destroyed or mutilated, shall
21 be punished by a fine of not exceeding five hun-
22 dred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more
23 than a year, or both. Possession of any such
24 motor vehicle or of any part thereof, the serial
25 number of which has been so removed, defaced,
26 altered, changed, destroyed or mutilated, shall be
27 prima facie evidence of a violation of this sec-
28 tion.

