

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE DRH70225-LK-29A* (2/1)

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

Sponsors: Representative Alexander.

Referred to:

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) If any person, with intent to commit any felony, larceny, or unauthorized use of a motor propelled conveyance, is found to have in their possession, without lawful excuse, any motor vehicle master key or other motor vehicle lock picking device, such as a jiggle key, that person shall be punished as a Class I felon.

(c) No person shall buy, sell, or transfer a motor vehicle master key, manipulative key or device, key-cutting device, lock pick or lock-picking device or hot wire, designed to open or capable of opening the door or trunk of any motor vehicle or of starting the engine of a motor vehicle. Any person who violates this subsection shall be punished as a Class I felon.

(d) This section shall not apply to any person who is a bona fide dealer of new or used motor vehicles, a car rental agent, a locksmith, a person who is lawfully repossessing a vehicle, a state, county, or municipal law-enforcement officer who is

1 acting within the scope of official duties. Nor shall this section apply to a bona fide
2 business which has a key-cutting device located and used on the premises for the
3 purpose of making replacement keys for the owner or person who is in lawful custody
4 of a vehicle."

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