

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

H

1

HOUSE BILL 891*

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

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; and Glazier.

Referred to: Judiciary I.

March 24, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE POSSESSION OF MOTOR VEHICLE MASTER
3 KEYS AND OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE LOCK-PICKING DEVICES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "**§ 14-56A. Preparation to commit breaking or entering into motor vehicles.**

8 (a) For purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

25 (d) This section shall not apply to any person who is a bona fide dealer of new or
26 used motor vehicles, a car rental agent, a locksmith, a person who is lawfully
27 repossessing a vehicle, a state, county, or municipal law-enforcement officer who is
28 acting within the scope of official duties. Nor shall this section apply to a bona fide
29 business which has a key-cutting device located and used on the premises for the

1 purpose of making replacement keys for the owner or person who is in lawful custody
2 of a vehicle."

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