

By: Representative Clark

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 522

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-25-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CLARIFY THAT ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ARE MOTOR
3 VEHICLES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE CHOP SHOP, STOLEN
4 AND ALTERED PROPERTY ACT, WHICH MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO ALTER A
5 VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-25-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 63-25-3. As used in Sections 63-25-1 through 63-25-11, the
10 following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them herein:

11 (a) "Chop shop" means any building, lot or other
12 premise where one or more persons are or have been knowingly
13 engaged in altering, destroying, disassembling, dismantling,
14 reassembling or knowingly storing any motor vehicle or motor
15 vehicle part known to be illegally obtained by theft, fraud or
16 conspiracy to defraud, in order to either:

17 (i) Alter, counterfeit, deface, destroy, disguise,
18 falsify, forge, obliterate or remove the identity, including the
19 vehicle identification number of such motor vehicle or motor



20 vehicle part in order to misrepresent the identity of such motor
21 vehicle or motor vehicle part, or to prevent the identification of
22 such motor vehicle or motor vehicle part; or

23 (ii) Sell or dispose of such motor vehicle or
24 motor vehicle part.

25 (b) "Motor vehicle" includes every device in, upon or
26 by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn
27 upon a highway, which is self-propelled or which may be connected
28 to and towed by a self-propelled device, and shall also include
29 any and all other land-based devices which are self-propelled but
30 which are not designed for use upon a highway, including, but not
31 limited to, farm machinery * * *, construction equipment,
32 all-terrain vehicles and off-road vehicles.

33 (c) "Person" includes a natural person, company,
34 corporation, unincorporated association, partnership, professional
35 corporation and any other legal entity.

36 (d) "Unidentifiable" means that the uniqueness of a
37 motor vehicle or motor vehicle part cannot be established by
38 either expert law enforcement investigative personnel specially
39 trained and experienced in motor vehicle theft investigation
40 procedures and motor vehicle identification examination
41 techniques, or by expert employees of not-for-profit motor vehicle
42 theft prevention agencies specially trained and experienced in
43 motor vehicle theft investigation procedures and motor vehicle
44 identification examination techniques.



45 (e) "Vehicle identification number" means a number or
46 numbers, a letter or letters, a character or characters, a datum
47 or data, a derivative or derivatives, or a combination or
48 combinations thereof, used by the manufacturer for the purpose of
49 uniquely identifying a motor vehicle or a motor vehicle part.

50 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 2016.

