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H.B. 519
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. A. White

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SUMMARY

- Specifies that possession or control of an electronic device or tool with the intent to steal a motor vehicle constitutes prima facie evidence of the criminal purpose required to commit the offense of possessing criminal tools.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Possessing criminal tools

The continuing law offense of “possessing criminal tools” prohibits a person from possessing or having under the person’s control any substance, device, instrument, or article with purpose to use it criminally.¹

The bill specifies that possession or control of an “electronic device or tool” under circumstances indicating an intent to steal a motor vehicle constitutes prima facie evidence of a criminal purpose.² The bill defines an “electronic device or tool” as a device or tool designed or adapted for use in unlocking or turning on a motor vehicle and does not include a previously issued or activated electronic card, key, or other electronic device assigned to the lawful owner of a motor vehicle.³

Under continuing law, the general penalty for possessing criminal tools is a first degree misdemeanor. If the circumstances indicate that the substance, device, instrument, or article

¹ R.C. 2923.24(B).

² R.C. 2923.24(C)(4).

³ R.C. 2923.24(A).

involved in the offense was intended for use in the commission of a felony, possessing criminal tools is a fifth degree felony.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-14-25

ANHB0519IN-136/ks

⁴ R.C. 2923.24(D).