

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R02-0948.01 Michael Dohr

HJR02-1048

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1048

101 CONCERNING CREATION OF AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE  
102 PROBLEM OF RISING MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME IN COLORADO.

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1 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle thefts in Colorado increased an  
2 alarming 15.9% in 2000 and at least 12% in 2001; and

3 WHEREAS, The percentage of vehicles stolen and not recovered  
4 is rapidly growing. In addition, the percentage of stolen vehicles stripped  
5 for parts is increasing. The average value of a stolen motor vehicle in the  
6 year 2000, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, was  
7 \$6,682. For Colorado, this loss calculates to \$113,333,402 for the year  
8 2000. For 2001 in Colorado, this loss is estimated to be \$134 million.  
9 Even stolen vehicles that are recovered generally sustain at least \$2,000  
10 in damage and property theft, which does not include lost time, wages,  
11 and peace of mind for each person victimized; and

12 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle theft problems are becoming  
13 increasingly costly and commercialized. Motor vehicle theft and fraud  
14 operations are multi-million dollar criminal enterprises in Colorado.  
15 These crimes are being perpetrated by a variety of local, national, and  
16 international groups operating in Colorado with impunity. The frequency

**Shading denotes HOUSE amendment.** Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 of these crimes has been growing in the past several years and these thefts  
2 and frauds cost the average family in Colorado \$1,507.46, which is about  
3 \$500 more than the national average according to the Rocky Mountain  
4 Insurance Information Association; and

5 WHEREAS, Criminal behavior of all kinds is facilitated by motor  
6 vehicle thefts. Daily reports of shootings, robberies, sexual assaults,  
7 burglaries, thefts, escapes, runaways, gang violence, hit and run traffic  
8 accidents, and insurance fraud of all types frequently involve the use of  
9 stolen or reportedly stolen vehicles. Specifically, methamphetamine drug  
10 use and trafficking, a major health and safety issue in Colorado, is an  
11 inextricable part of the motor vehicle theft problem in Colorado; and

12 WHEREAS, The perpetrators of these crimes do not recognize the  
13 jurisdictional boundaries of our state, cities, and counties, thereby  
14 creating a need for a multi-jurisdictional approach to address the issues  
15 surrounding motor vehicle theft and fraud; and

16 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle theft and fraud crimes involve issues  
17 that other legislative initiatives currently address regarding transportation  
18 and consumer protection. A coordinated approach creating interrelated  
19 strategies is necessary so that a solution to one issue does not create a  
20 problem in another sector. As an example of such an integrated  
21 approach, the development of a reliable system within the Department of  
22 Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, regarding the marking of vehicle titles  
23 so that vehicles deemed unsalvageable are not given "clear" titles, could  
24 stop the reintroduction of salvage vehicles into the marketplace thus  
25 reducing the victimization of citizens, automobile dealers, and insurance  
26 companies; and

27 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle theft and fraud is a component and an  
28 instrumentality of most other property crimes and crimes of violence. It  
29 is a choke point, which, if sufficiently addressed, will not only reduce the  
30 number of stolen vehicles and frauds committed in Colorado, but will  
31 have the positive effect of reducing other crime as well; now, therefore,

32 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third*  
33 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*  
34 *herein:*

35 (1) That there is hereby created a legislative committee,  
36 hereinafter referred to as the "committee", which shall meet in the interim  
37 after the 2002 regular session of the Sixty-third General Assembly to  
38 study the motor vehicle theft statutes, the motor vehicle procedures, and  
39 the viability of a multi-agency, coordinated, strategic law enforcement  
40 response to motor vehicle theft and fraud.

41 (2) (a) That the committee shall consist of twelve members as  
42 follows:

43 (I) The chair of the House Criminal Justice committee, or her  
44 designee, the chair of the House Civil Justice committee, or his designee,  
45 and the chair of the Senate Judiciary committee, or his designee; and

1 (II) Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by  
2 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and chosen from among the  
3 members of the Criminal Justice committee and the Civil Justice and  
4 Judiciary committee; and

5 (III) Five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the  
6 Senate and chosen from among the members of the Judiciary committee.

7 (b) No more than four members from the House of  
8 Representatives shall be from the same political party. No more than four  
9 members from the Senate shall be from the same political party.

10 (3) That the committee shall have, at a minimum, the following  
11 duties, which it shall perform with the goal of reducing the incidents of  
12 motor vehicle theft and fraud in Colorado:

13 (a) To identify areas in the statutes to strengthen Colorado's motor  
14 vehicle theft and fraud laws; and

15 (b) To identify new and innovative motor vehicle procedures that  
16 may reduce motor vehicle theft and fraud; and

17 (c) To investigate the viability of a multi-agency, coordinated,  
18 strategic law enforcement response to motor vehicle theft and fraud; and

19 (d) To make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding  
20 mechanisms, procedures, and language necessary to strengthen  
21 Colorado's motor vehicle theft and fraud laws; and

22 (e) To consider and recommend, if appropriate, the creation of a  
23 multi-agency response team to investigate and reduce motor vehicle theft  
24 and fraud; and

25 (f) To recommend continuation of the committee to further study  
26 these issues, if appropriate.

27 (4) That the committee shall meet no more than six times  
28 beginning in June, 2002, during the 2002 interim. The committee may  
29 form subcommittees to accomplish its goals and may invite additional  
30 members of the community to participate in such subcommittees. Each  
31 meeting of the committee shall include an opportunity for public  
32 comment on items related to the committee's agenda.

33 (5) That the legislative members of the committee shall be  
34 compensated as provided in section 2-2-307, Colorado Revised Statutes,  
35 for attendance at meetings of the committee.

36 (6) That the Legislative Council staff and the Office of Legislative  
37 Legal Services staff shall be available to assist the committee in carrying  
38 out its duties.

39 (7) That all expenditures incurred while conducting this study  
40 shall be approved by the chair of the Legislative Council and paid by  
41 vouchers and warrants drawn as provided by law from moneys allocated

1 to the Legislative Council for legislative studies from appropriations  
2 made by the General Assembly.

3 (8) That the committee shall make a report to the General  
4 Assembly in accordance with the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House  
5 of Representatives. Such report may include recommendations for  
6 legislation, including but not limited to legislation continuing the  
7 committee, and an outline of further time and process that may be  
8 necessary to achieve the committee's study goals. Legislation  
9 recommended by the committee shall be treated as legislation  
10 recommended by any other interim committee for purposes of any  
11 introduction deadlines or bill limitations imposed by the Joint Rules of  
12 the Senate and House of Representatives.