

Stolen Vehicle Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill preempts a political subdivision from imposing certain restrictions on reporting a vehicle theft.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- preempts a local law or ordinance:

- restricting a person's ability to report a vehicle theft; or
- imposing a time limit before which a person is prohibited from reporting a vehicle theft; and

- invalidates a local law or ordinance that imposes those restrictions.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

41-1a-1402, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1998, Chapter 263

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **41-1a-1402** is amended to read:

41-1a-1402 . Report by owners or lienholders of thefts and recoveries --

Preemption on restrictions on vehicle theft reporting.

(1)(a) The owner, or person having a lien or encumbrance upon a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that has been stolen, may notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the theft occurred.

(b) In the event of an embezzlement the owner or person may make a report only after having procured the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of the person charged with

embezzlement.

(2)(a) If a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is recovered, an owner or other person who has given any notice under Subsection (1) shall notify the law enforcement agency where the theft or embezzlement was reported.

(b) The law enforcement agency shall notify the Criminal Investigations and Technical Services Division, established in Section 53-10-103, of recovery.

(3)(a) A political subdivision of the state may not enact a law, ordinance, or rule:

(i) restricting a person's ability to report the theft of a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor; or

(ii) imposing a time limit before which a person is prohibited from reporting the theft of a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor.

(b) Any law, ordinance, or rule described in Subsection (3)(a) in effect on or before May 6, 2026, is invalid and unenforceable.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.