

(d) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the term “tampers with” includes covering a program decal or device affixed to a motor vehicle pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act for the purpose of obstructing its visibility.

(Added Pub. L. 98-547, title II, §201(a), Oct. 25, 1984, 98 Stat. 2768; amended Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(3), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1373; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXII, §220003(a)-(c), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2076, 2077; Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §604(b)(8), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3507.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2), (b)(2)(D), and (d), is title XXII of Pub. L. 103-322, Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2074, which enacted section 511A of this title and section 14171 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amended this section, and enacted provisions set out as a note under section 13701 of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 13701 of Title 42 and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Another section 511 was renumbered section 513 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b)(2)(D). Pub. L. 104-294 realigned margins.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-322, §220003(a), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows: “Whoever knowingly removes, obliterates, tampers with, or alters an identification number for a motor vehicle, or motor vehicle part, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

Subsec. (b)(2)(D). Pub. L. 103-322, §220003(b), added subpar. (D).

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(3)(A), substituted “chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49” for “the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, or the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(3)(B), substituted “section 32101 of title 49” for “section 2 of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-322, §220003(c), added subsec. (d).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-294 effective Sept. 13, 1994, see section 604(d) of Pub. L. 104-294, set out as a note under section 13 of this title.

### § 511A. Unauthorized application of theft prevention decal or device

(a) Whoever affixes to a motor vehicle a theft prevention decal or other device, or a replica thereof, unless authorized to do so pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “theft prevention decal or device” means a decal or other device designed in accordance with a uniform design for such devices developed pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act.

(Added Pub. L. 103-322, title XXII, §220003(d)(1), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2077.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act, referred to in text, is title XXII of Pub. L. 103-322, Sept. 13, 1994, 108

Stat. 2074, which enacted this section and section 14171 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amended section 511 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as a note under section 13701 of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 13701 of Title 42 and Tables.

### § 512. Forfeiture of certain motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts

(a) If an identification number for a motor vehicle or motor vehicle part is removed, obliterated, tampered with, or altered, such vehicle or part shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States unless—

(1) in the case of a motor vehicle part, such part is attached to a motor vehicle and the owner of such motor vehicle does not know that the identification number has been removed, obliterated, tampered with, or altered;

(2) such motor vehicle or part has a replacement identification number that—

(A) is authorized by the Secretary of Transportation under chapter 301 of title 49; or

(B) conforms to applicable State law;

(3) such removal, obliteration, tampering, or alteration is caused by collision or fire or is carried out as described in section 511(b) of this title; or

(4) such motor vehicle or part is in the possession or control of a motor vehicle scrap processor who does not know that such identification number was removed, obliterated, tampered with, or altered in any manner other than by collision or fire or as described in section 511(b) of this title.

(b) All provisions of law relating to—

(1) the seizure and condemnation of vessels, vehicles, merchandise, and baggage for violation of customs laws, and procedures for summary and judicial forfeiture applicable to such violations;

(2) the disposition of such vessels, vehicles, merchandise, and baggage or the proceeds from such disposition;

(3) the remission or mitigation of such forfeiture; and

(4) the compromise of claims and the award of compensation to informers with respect to such forfeiture;

shall apply to seizures and forfeitures under this section, to the extent that such provisions are not inconsistent with this section. The duties of the collector of customs or any other person with respect to seizure and forfeiture under such provisions shall be performed under this section by such persons as may be designated by the Attorney General.

(c) As used in this section, the terms “identification number”, “motor vehicle”, and “motor vehicle scrap processor” have the meanings given those terms in section 511 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 98-547, title II, §201(a), Oct. 25, 1984, 98 Stat. 2769; amended Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(4), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1373.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 103-272 substituted “chapter 301 title 49” for “the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966”.