



*Automotive Service Councils of California*

*Professionals in Automotive Service - Since 1940*

[www.ascca.com](http://www.ascca.com)

## **ASCCA Legislative Advocacy Week April 25-29, 2022 Talking Points**

### **About ASCCA**

- **Voice of the auto service industry:** ASCCA is the voice of California's automotive service shop owners. We help our members navigate the changing landscape with modern vehicles, help them prepare to meet new service needs, and keep them updated on changing regulations. ASCCA membership spans 17 local chapters across the state representing hundreds of automotive service shops.
- **Shaping legislative and regulatory proposals:** Through our Government Affairs Committee, ASCCA provides input to state laws and regulations to make them work in the real-world for the auto service industry. ASCCA works with the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) helping create guidelines that protect the consumer as well as ASCCA member shops.
- **Resource to the legislature:** We appreciate the opportunity to share our insights and build relationships with state legislators, and hope that you will call upon ASCCA as a resource on issues related to the automotive industry and small business regulations.

### **ASCCA SUMMARY OF BILLS**

#### **1) Catalytic Converter Theft Legislation**

Catalytic converter theft is a major problem in California. BAR reports that approximately 1,600 catalytic converters are stolen statewide each month. Converter theft under vehicles takes only minutes with basic tools such as a pipe wrench or cordless Sawzall. Targeted vehicles typically include Toyota and Honda because these vehicles are commonly certified as Super Low Emissions Vehicles and converters are coated with precious metals such as Rhodium which has a value over \$14,000 per ounce. Replacement costs can be in the thousands of dollars due to damage to surrounding pipes, wiring and oxygen sensors. Legislators have introduced legislation to address the problem.

#### **Theft Deterrence**

Consumers can help prevent catalytic converter theft by parking in well-lit areas, installing motion sensing alarm systems, having a trusted auto repair professional etch the converter shell with the vehicle identification number or installing cage or shield over the converter which makes the converter difficult to steal.

## Legislation

There are eleven (11) bills dealing with catalytic converter theft. We expect that the legislation to be merged and narrowed down to a couple of bills. In the meantime, the ASCCA wishes to work with the legislature, by educating and helping develop meaningful solutions to address the theft issues without unintended consequences that may negatively impact licensed automotive repair dealers from installing and/or recycling catalytic converters properly and safely. There are concerns that the legislation may create new crimes against licensed automotive repair professionals or place unreasonable requirements and/or penalties on commercial businesses that properly and safely recycle failed catalytic converters. The pending bills are as follows:

- [AB 1622](#) - Requires smog shops to post a sign informing customers about strategies for deterring converter theft, including etching of identifying information on the converter.
- [AB 1653](#) - Creates a Task Force to assist local law enforcement to identify geographic areas experiencing high level of property crimes.
- [AB 1659](#) - Revises the definition of auto dismantler to include a person who keeps or maintains 2 or more used converters not attached to a motor vehicle.
- [AB 1740](#) – Requires core recyclers who accept converters to maintain record of the year, make and model of the vehicle from which converter was removed.
- [AB 1984](#) – Specifies that a peace officer need not have actual knowledge that converter is stolen to establish probable cause for arrest.
- [AB 2398](#) – Makes the possession of detached converter a crime.
- [AB 2407](#) – Requires core recyclers who accept converters to obtain thumb prints from seller disposing of catalytic converters.
- [AB 2682](#) - Any ARD that installs or replaces a catalytic converter shall ensure that it is engraved or otherwise marked with VIN and smog station shall notify customer whether or not converter engraved with VIN.
- [SB 919](#) – Prohibits a dealer from selling a vehicle unless converter has been engraved, etched or permanently marked with VIN.
- [SB 986](#) – Requires core recyclers who accept converters to maintain specified written records and prohibits a dealer from selling a vehicle unless converter has been engraved, etched or permanently marked with VIN.
- [SB 1087](#) - Requires core recyclers who accept converters to maintain specified written records and prohibits any person from purchasing used converter.

Below is the link to BAR catalytic converter theft presentation.

[https://www.bar.ca.gov/pdf/BAG/202110/Catalytic\\_Converter.pdf](https://www.bar.ca.gov/pdf/BAG/202110/Catalytic_Converter.pdf)

### **2) AB 2058 (O'Donnell). Career Tech Education Incentive Grants. Support.**

- The bill increases ongoing annual funding for K-12 Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program (CTEIG) to \$450 million per year from the current \$300 million per year.
- Requires staffing at the California Department of Education to include state-level subject matter experts in key industry sectors, who would work with regional Career Technical Education (CTE) coordinators and provide support to local educational agencies in the establishment and improvement of CTE.

- According to the author (Assembly member O'Donnell), CTE ensures that students are better prepared for life after graduation, whether that includes college or leads straight to a career. Students need multiple paths to success, not a one-size fits all model as not every quality job requires a four-year university degree. CTE programs that provide quality career exploration and guidance, and appropriate student support prepare students to transition smoothly into ongoing education and/or directly into the workforce.
- CTE courses such as automotive shop programs have the potential of engaging students who may be otherwise disengaged and at-risk of dropping out. Automotive shop programs provide hands on learning, problem solving skills and employability skills that lead to good paying automotive jobs, but there are challenges with these programs. Many automotive instructors are retiring and not being replaced, and the only solution is to close down the auto shop program where teachers not available.
- Automotive shop programs need funding for teachers, updated equipment, tools and curriculum to continue to support these important programs and for the future of our workforce.

### **3) SB 1349 (Caballero)- Work Opportunity Tax Credit – Support**

- Establishes a \$1,000 California Work Opportunity Tax Credit (Tax Credit) available to California employers for hiring individuals from targeted groups who have faced significant barriers to employment.
- A federal version of the Tax Credit identifies ten groups of new hires, as well as long term unemployed, disabled veterans and other identifiable potential employees that may require assistance to enter the labor force.
- By offering a corresponding Tax Credit using federal eligibility criteria, the state can efficiently help assist underemployed citizens get back into the workforce.
- This bill allows a \$1,000 California-based Tax Credit to help increase workforce participation and assist employers in managing significant wage inflation in the service sector.
- Given the economic disparities the pandemic has highlighted, SB 1349 will help our most vulnerable and the employers who create jobs in California.