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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 796 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, PITTMAN AND STEFANO, JUNE 24, 2021

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REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JUNE 24, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in preemptions, prohibiting vehicle  
3 locking devices by municipalities.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 306. Vehicle locking devices by municipalities prohibited.

9 (a) Preemption.--No municipality may adopt or enforce an  
10 ordinance, resolution, rule or take other action authorizing the  
11 municipality to place locking devices on vehicles in the  
12 municipality.

13 (b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
14 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
15 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Boot clamp." A device that consists of a clamp designed to  
17 surround the wheel of a vehicle so as to prevent removal of both  
18 the wheel and the device and to prevent the vehicle from being  
19 moved.

1       "Locking device." A boot clamp, steering wheel lock or  
2 similar device that is placed on a vehicle to prevent the  
3 vehicle from being moved. The term does not include an ignition  
4 interlock attached to a vehicle in accordance with the laws of  
5 this Commonwealth.

6       "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town  
7 or township or home rule, optional plan or optional charter  
8 municipality, any other general purpose unit of government  
9 established by the General Assembly, a municipal authority and  
10 any entity formed under Subchapter A of Chapter 23 (relating to  
11 intergovernmental cooperation).

12       "Steering wheel lock." A device that is placed on the  
13 steering wheel of a vehicle to prevent the movement of the  
14 steering wheel and the removal of the device and to prevent the  
15 vehicle from being moved.

16       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.