

SENATE BILL NO. 364

INTRODUCED BY K. BOGNER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING KILL SWITCH LAWS; PROHIBITING AN ENTITY FROM REMOTELY ACTIVATING A KILL SWITCH WITHOUT A WARRANT; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING DAMAGES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Kill switches in electronic consumer products ON PERSONALLY OWNED PROPERTY -- warrant required -- exceptions -- definitions. (1) An entity may not activate a kill switch on an individual's electronic consumer product PERSONALLY OWNED PROPERTY without a court order or a warrant issued pursuant to Title 46, chapter 5, part 2.

(2) This section does not apply to:

(A) subscriptions, memberships, and other recurring-payment programs or to leased electronic consumer products OR TO MOTOR VEHICLES SUBJECT TO COLLECTIONS. In the event an individual neglects to make regular payments, the entity may activate a kill switch to turn off the individual's subscribed services.

(B) A MECHANISM OR FEATURE THAT:

(I) ADDRESSES AN IMMINENT CRITICAL SAFETY ISSUE IMPACTING A MECHANICAL OR SOFTWARE COMPONENT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE;

(II) ACTIVATES WHEN A DRIVE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IS INCAPACITATED, SUFFERS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, OR EXPERIENCES A LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS;

(III) TAKES CORRECTIVE ACTION IN A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH AN ENGAGED PARTIAL DRIVING AUTOMATION FEATURE IF THE DRIVER IS NOT ATTENTIVE OR ENGAGED IN THE DRIVING TASK AND DOES NOT RESPOND TO WARNINGS;

(IV) BRINGS A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH AN ENGAGED AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEM TO A MINIMAL RISK CONDITION; OR

(V) AUTOMATICALLY SHUTS OFF THE ENGINE OR MOTOR OF AN IDLING MOTOR VEHICLE THAT HAS BEEN

1 LEFT ON FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME WHILE IN THE PARK POSITION.

2 (3) As used in [sections 1 and 2], the following definitions apply:

3 (a) ~~"Electronic consumer product" includes electronic devices as defined in 45-6-310 as well as~~
4 ~~motor vehicles as defined in 61-1-101.~~

5 (b) (A) "Entity" means a company that manufactures or distributes ~~an electronic consumer product~~
6 PERSONALLY OWNED PROPERTY or that provides service for ~~an electronic consumer product's~~ ITS functionality.

7 (c) (B) "Hard reset" means the restoration of ~~an electronic consumer product~~ PERSONALLY OWNED
8 PROPERTY to the state ~~the electronic consumer product~~ IT was in when it left the factory. Other terms commonly
9 used are "factory reset" and "master reset".

10 (d) (C) "Individual" means a natural person.

11 (e) (D) "Kill switch" means a mechanism that may be engaged remotely, regardless of the owner's
12 consent, and is used to:

13 (i) shut down or perform a hard reset on ~~an electronic consumer product~~ PERSONALLY OWNED
14 PROPERTY;

15 (ii) hasten the battery drainage of ~~an electronic consumer product~~ PERSONALLY OWNED PROPERTY;
16 or

17 (iii) shorten the software lifespan of ~~an electronic consumer product~~ PERSONALLY OWNED PROPERTY.

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19 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Enforcement -- damages. (1) A violation of [section 1] is a violation of
20 30-14-103.

21 (2) The department of justice may bring an action to restrain any unlawful act pursuant to the
22 provisions of Title 30, chapter 14, part 1.

23 (3) An individual whose ~~electronic consumer product~~ PERSONALLY OWNED PROPERTY has a kill
24 switch activated in violation of [section 1] may bring an action pursuant to 30-14-133, except that:

25 (a) the individual needs to show only a violation of [section 1] for that individual's ~~electronic~~
26 ~~consumer product~~ PERSONALLY OWNED PROPERTY and is not required to show any other ascertainable loss of
27 money or property; and

28 (b) the individual is entitled to statutory damages of \$10,000 for each violation of [section 1] in

1 addition to any other damages or monetary award pursuant to 30-14-133.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified

4 as a new part in Title 30, chapter 14, and the provisions of Title 30, chapter 14, apply to [sections 1 and 2].

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective October 1, 2025.

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