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Basham Press Release

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Senate Passes Basham's Bill to Protect Driver's Privacy

Legislation calls for criminal penalties on those who stalk people using vehicle tracking devices

LANSING, Mich.— Today the Michigan State Senate voted unanimously to pass Senate Bill 1572, which was recently introduced by Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) to amend the penal code to make it a misdemeanor for a person to install a tracking device in another individual's vehicle without their knowledge and consent.

“Tracking a person’s vehicle is an enormous violation of their privacy,” said Basham. “As technology advances and products such as global positioning systems (GPS) become more prevalent, we need to take action to protect people from electronic stalking.”

Law enforcement agents brought the need for this legislation to Basham’s attention after they were contacted by an elected official who took her vehicle in for repairs and a mechanic discovered that a tracking device had been installed. Both the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Sheriffs Association support the bill.

The proposed legislation includes exemptions for police officers, professional investigators and bail agents, as well as for devices that track vehicles to provide mechanical, directional, stolen vehicle assistance, and weather or traffic information. The bill now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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