

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 725

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 10, 2010

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 725 with committee amendments.

This amended bill would make the theft of an electronic vehicle identification system transponder a disorderly persons offense, with a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000 upon conviction.

The E-ZPass system, an electronic toll collection system, has reduced toll plaza congestion and speeded traffic flow on the toll roads of this State. Unfortunately, the detachable electronic transponder on a vehicle's windshield that is read by a toll plaza receiver has proven an easy target for thieves.

This bill further provides that a customer who has an account with an operator of a New Jersey electronic toll collection system ("E-ZPass") and who reports the loss or theft of a transponder in a timely manner shall not be liable for unauthorized charges of \$50 or more that were incurred before the loss or theft was reported or for any charges after the loss or theft is reported. If the customer who is reporting a stolen transponder also submits a copy of the police report of the theft, the customer shall not be charged any fees for the stolen transponder or for a replacement transponder.

The committee amended the bill to provide the latest version of the law.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.