

SB 803 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits scrap metal business from purchasing or receiving catalytic converters, except from commercial seller. Requires scrap metal business record the make, model year, vehicle identification number, license number and issuing state for private metal property that was removed.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Catalytic converters have been installed in almost all gasoline vehicles sold in the United States since 1975. Catalytic converters have a honeycomb-like interior — coated with precious metals like palladium, rhodium and platinum — that scrub toxic pollutants from the car's exhaust. The value of these metals fluctuate, but according to the New York Times the price of palladium is between \$2,000 and \$2,500 an ounce and rhodium prices has recently reached a record of \$21,900 an ounce.

Senate Bill 803 prohibits a scrap metal business from purchasing or receiving catalytic converters, except from commercial seller and requires the scrap metal business to record certain information related to the catalytic converter purchased or received.