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Act No. 129 (H.563). An act relating to unlawful trespass in a motor vehicle and unauthorized operation of a motor vehicle without the owner's consent

Subjects: Crimes and criminal procedure; unlawful trespass; operation of a motor vehicle without owner's consent

This act creates two new offenses: unlawful trespass into a motor vehicle and operation without the owner's consent when the person should have known they did not have the owner's consent.

Sec. 1 of the act amends 13 V.S.A. § 3705 to establish a three-month/\$500.00 fine misdemeanor for entering a motor vehicle of another and when the person knows that the person does not have legal authority or the consent of the person in lawful possession of the motor vehicle to do so.

Sec. 2 of the act amends the joyride provision of 23 V.S.A. § 1094, leaving the current two-year misdemeanor for knowingly committing the offense and adding a lesser offense if the person should have known they did not have consent of the owner. This lesser offense would be a crime subject to a fine of not more than \$500.00.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024