

H.824

Introduced by Representatives Arsenault of Williston and Priestley of

Bradford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; consumer protection; vehicle phone

disconnection

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require providers of mobile phone applications to provide a process that allows an occupant of a vehicle to sever a connection between the vehicle and a user connected to the vehicle through the application.

An act relating to smartphone-connected vehicles

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 2466e is added to read:

§ 2466e. VEHICLE PHONE DISCONNECTION

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “App publisher” means a publisher of a mobile phone application that provides the ability for a user of the application to connect to a vehicle through the application and gain information about the vehicle or to control certain aspects of the vehicle, including the ability to:

1           (A) track the location of the vehicle;

2           (B) start or turn off the vehicle; or

3           (C) do any other thing that, without the application, would require the  
4 user to be an occupant of the vehicle.

5           (2) “Motor vehicle” has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(21).

6           (3) “Vehicle” includes all motor vehicles that have a telematic control  
7 unit, or similar technology, that is compatible with the U.S. cellular network  
8 and allows for a user to connect to the vehicle with a mobile phone application.

9           (4) “Vehicle manufacturer” means the original manufacturer or  
10 assembler of a vehicle.

11          (b) Requirements.

12           (1) An app publisher shall provide in the mobile phone application a  
13 process where an occupant of the vehicle can:

14           (A) determine whether there is one or more users connected to the  
15 vehicle through the mobile phone application; and

16           (B) disconnect any user that, through the mobile phone application, is  
17 connected to the vehicle.

18           (2) The process provided pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection  
19 shall:

20           (A) be no more difficult or burdensome than the process to connect to  
21 the vehicle through the mobile phone application;

1           (B) require the occupant to be inside the vehicle;

2           (C) not require:

3                 (i) any special tools or skills;

4                 (ii) separate consent from the vehicle manufacturer or app

5 publisher; or

6                 (iii) permission or consent from the user that is being

7 disconnected; and

8           (D) disconnect any users so chosen by the occupant in a reasonable

9 amount of time, but not later than 30 minutes after the occupant has completed

10 the in-vehicle process.

11         (c) Enforcement. A violation of this section constitutes a violation of

12 section 2453 of this title.

13         Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14         This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.