
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 879 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY HARHAI, MILLARD, DAVIDSON, DAVIS, MUNDY, HARKINS,
V. BROWN, READSHAW, COHEN, KORTZ, DeLUCA, FABRIZIO,
SCHLOSSBERG, MILLER, P. DALEY, MURT AND QUINN, MARCH 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 11, 2013

AN ACT

1 Providing for notice of motor vehicle event data recorders and
2 for information retrieval; imposing penalties; and providing
3 for evidentiary rules.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Motor Vehicle
8 Event Data Recorder Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Authorized person." A licensed new motor vehicle dealer or
14 a licensed automotive technician.

15 "Lease." A lease agreement between a lessor and lessee for a
16 term of at least 12 months.

17 "Motor vehicle event data recorder." A device installed in a
18 motor vehicle by the manufacturer of the vehicle for the purpose

1 of retrieving data about the operation of the motor vehicle,
2 including data relating to speed, direction, location,
3 operational functioning and use of safety devices in the motor
4 vehicle.

5 "New motor vehicle." The term includes only a new motor
6 vehicle that is purchased or leased for personal use.

7 Section 3. New vehicle notice.

8 (a) Requirement.--The manufacturer of a new motor vehicle
9 sold or leased in this Commonwealth shall disclose the following
10 in the owner's manual of the vehicle:

11 (1) Whether the new motor vehicle is equipped with a
12 motor vehicle event data recorder.

13 (2) If the new motor vehicle is equipped with a motor
14 vehicle event data recorder:

15 (i) a description of the data which can be recorded;

16 and

17 (ii) notice that data downloaded or otherwise
18 retrieved by an event data recorder or similar device can
19 be used as evidence in legal proceedings.

20 (b) Penalty.--A violation of this act shall constitute a
21 violation of the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387),
22 known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

23 Section 4. Information retrieval.

24 (a) General rule.--Only authorized persons may download or
25 otherwise retrieve a motor vehicle event data recorder and no
26 information downloaded or otherwise retrieved by authorized
27 persons may be released or shared with any individual except
28 under one of the following circumstances:

29 (1) The owner of the motor vehicle consents to the
30 downloading, retrieval, use, release or sharing.

1 (2) A court order, including after an accident involving
2 the motor vehicle, is lawfully issued.

3 (3) The motor vehicle event data recorder or data is
4 retrieved or used for research purposes related to improving
5 vehicle safety, provided the identity of the registered owner
6 or driver is not disclosed.

7 (4) The motor vehicle event data recorder or data is
8 retrieved, used, released or shared for the purpose of
9 diagnosing, servicing or repairing the vehicle.

10 (5) The National Transportation Safety Board makes a
11 request as part of an official accident investigation.

12 (b) Exemption.--Subsection (a) does not apply to
13 subscription services.

14 (c) Grading.--An individual who violates subsection (a)
15 commits a summary offense.

16 Section 5. Evidence.

17 (a) General rule.--Data from a motor vehicle event data
18 recorder that is downloaded, retrieved, used, released or shared
19 in violation of this act is inadmissible in evidence in any
20 civil, criminal or administrative action.

21 (b) Use of evidence.--Data from a motor vehicle event data
22 recorder that is downloaded, retrieved, used, released or shared
23 in accordance with this act shall be insufficient to support an
24 adjudication of the cause of a motor vehicle accident unless it
25 is corroborated by other evidence.

26 (c) Applicability.--This section shall apply to an action
27 initiated on or after the effective date of this section.

28 Section 6. Subscription services.

29 If a motor vehicle event recorder is installed as part of a
30 subscription service, the subscription service agreement shall

1 disclose that the device may record or transmit information as
2 described in section 3.
3 Section 7. Effective date.
4 This act shall take effect in 60 days.