

Maryland Makes Selling and Installing Fake Airbags a Crime

By: Coalition Against Insurance Fraud

Selling and installing non-functioning airbags is now a crime in Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's signing Senate Bill into law May 9 that makes it a crime to install or sell counterfeit airbags. Conviction earns up to five years in state prison and up to \$5,000 in fines.

Making airbag scams a specific crime in Maryland will help save lives and clamp down on a costly insurance scam, the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud said in lauding the bills passage.

"Maryland has taken a firm step toward deflating airbags scams. Dangerous knockoff airbags threaten motorist lives in crashes and bilk auto insurers with grossly inflated replacement costs," said Howard Goldblatt, the Coalition's director of government affairs.

Maryland becomes the 12th state in recent years to criminalize airbag schemes.

California, Pennsylvania and South Carolina also are debating criminalizing fake airbags sales and installation.