

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 23-0199R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen  
Introduced and adopted: November 20, 2023

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Request for Federal Action - Recall Kia and Hyundai Models Vulnerable to Theft**

FOR the purpose of calling on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to issue a recall of Kia and Hyundai models lacking immobilizer technology that are vulnerable to theft.

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, the car manufacturers Kia and Hyundai did not install industry-standard engine immobilizer technology on certain models between 2011 and 2022.

**WHEREAS**, vehicles with this vulnerability can be easily stolen using a universal serial bus (USB) cable and screwdriver in minutes, and instructional videos on how to do so have spread widely on TikTok and other social media platforms.

**WHEREAS**, this vulnerability has allowed youth under the age of 16 and unlicensed drivers to access Kia and Hyundai vehicles and drive recklessly.

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, Kia and Hyundai offered free software updates to address this vulnerability; however, not all impacted vehicles are able to receive these software upgrades.

**WHEREAS**, unlike voluntary software upgrades, a recall includes mailed notification to all impacted vehicle owners and the opportunity for a dealer to buy back a vehicle that cannot be repaired.

**WHEREAS**, in Maryland, drivers are informed of open vehicle safety recalls through registration renewal notices.

**WHEREAS**, while only 15% of registered passenger vehicles in Baltimore City are manufactured by Kia or Hyundai, they account for 68% of stolen vehicles in the City this year alone.

**WHEREAS**, as of October 31, 2023, 2,645 Hyundai vehicles and 1,091 Kia vehicles have been stolen in Baltimore City this year.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 23-0199R**

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the City  
2 Council calls on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to issue a recall of  
3 Kia and Hyundai models lacking immobilizer technology that are vulnerable to theft.

4       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Administrator  
5 of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the United States Secretary of  
6 Transportation, the President of the United States, the United States Congressional Delegation  
7 for Maryland, the Maryland Attorney General, the Maryland Secretary of Transportation, the  
8 Administrator of the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration, the  
9 Governor, the Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, the Superintendent  
10 of the Maryland State Police, the Police Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to  
11 the City Council.