



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SENATOR HARRIS FILES LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS RASH OF JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY IN NEW ORLEANS**

Senate Bills 181 and 233 Aim to Deter Car Burglaries by Juvenile Offenders

District 4 State Senator Jimmy Harris (D-New Orleans) has filed legislation that aims to deter car burglaries committed by juvenile offenders. The legislation is in response to the startling number of auto burglaries, especially those committed by young people, in the New Orleans area.

Senate Bill 181 would increase the penalties for simple burglary of a motor vehicle and for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile when the underlying felony is the crime of simple burglary of a motor vehicle. If SB 181 is passed by the legislature, any adult who commits the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor when the crime being committed is burglary of an automobile would face increased penalties. The maximum fine would increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and the maximum prison sentence would increase from two years to five years.

Senate Bill 233 would expand opportunities for parent participation and rehabilitation in the adjudication of a juvenile's sentence.

According to a report by the New Orleans City Council, fewer juveniles in New Orleans were charged with crimes in 2019 than the previous year. However, vehicle burglaries doubled and juveniles make up the majority of those arrested for those crimes.

"The headlines speak for themselves," said Sen. Harris. "Dozens of auto burglaries, shots fired at police officers, manhunts, car-jackings, murders, fiery crashes, and more, all at the hands of juveniles. It is my hope that this legislation will not only deter them from committing such crimes in the first place but also provide courts the option of parental involvement and rehabilitation during sentencing so that these young offenders are less likely to do it again."

Senate Bills 181 and 233 were introduced in the Senate and are pending action by the Senate Judiciary C Committee. To learn more about these measures and Senator Harris' other bills, please visit www.legis.la.gov.

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