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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# Driver and Vehicle Services Update

Bureau of Motor Vehicles – Research and Support Operations Section  
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This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services  
website at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov).

**Tom Wolf, Governor**

**Leslie S. Richards, Secretary**

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## SPECIAL EDITION

### Senate Bill 1101/ACT 74 – Theft Vehicles

Act 74 of 2018, signed into law on June 28, 2018, amends section 1164 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code. The amendment changes the branding requirements for recovered theft vehicles. This amendment is effective on December 26, 2018.

Upon payment to the insured of the replacement value for a theft vehicle, the owner or insurer must apply for a certificate of salvage, branded as a theft vehicle. If the vehicle has been recovered, the vehicle must be assessed as to the level of damage at the time of recovery by an insurer or licensed physical damage appraiser. If the insurer is a self-insurer, the assessment of damage must be completed by a licensed physical damage appraiser who is not affiliated with or employed by the self-insurer. **NOTE:** The assessment must include the replacement value of the vehicle and level of damage in dollars.

- Recovered theft vehicles with repairs that exceed the replacement value of the vehicle, and a salvage certificate was issued, will be processed as a reconstructed vehicle. These vehicles will receive a certificate of title branded as reconstructed recovered theft vehicle.
- Recovered theft vehicles with repairs that are more than 50% of the replacement value of the vehicle, and the owner elects to retain title to the vehicle, will be processed as recovered theft vehicles. These vehicles will receive a certificate of title branded as a recovered theft vehicle only. **NOTE:** If the owner is an individual, please refer to the 4th bullet below.
- Recovered theft vehicles, where an owner has received a salvage certificate and after payment has been made by the insurance company, with repairs that are 50% or less than of the replacement value of the vehicle, the owner may apply for an unbranded certificate of title.
- An individual who has not paid the replacement value for the vehicle and has not received a certificate of salvage may use the existing certificate of title without applying for a new certificate of title.

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