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(54) **PROTECTING ELECTRONIC DEVICES FROM EXTENDED UNAUTHORIZED USE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

When unauthorized use of a device is suspected, a recharging mechanism (e.g., recharge-circuit) of the device is disabled in order to guard against extended unauthorized use of the device. The recharging mechanism normally recharges the rechargeable-power-supply that powers the device. Consequently, normal use and enjoyment of the device can be significantly reduced by disabling the rechager. Moreover, for devices that are mainly powered by a rechargeable-power-supply (e.g., music-players, phones, Personal Digital Assistants), disabling the recharger effectively renders the device inoperable when the power of the main power-supply has run out. As such, disabling the recharger should serve as a deterrent to theft.