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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION

**HOUSE FILE No. 3331**

February 21, 2008

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Civil Justice

March 4, 2008

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public safety; adding the definitions of retail property and retail  
1.3 establishment under theft; creating new penalties for retail theft and possession  
1.4 or use of shoplifting gear; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 609.52,  
1.5 subdivisions 1, 2, by adding a subdivision; 609.521; 609.53, subdivision 1;  
1.6 Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 609.52, subdivision 3.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 609.52, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** In this section:

1.10 (1) "Property" means all forms of tangible property, whether real or personal,  
1.11 without limitation including documents of value, electricity, gas, water, corpses, domestic  
1.12 animals, dogs, pets, fowl, and heat supplied by pipe or conduit by municipalities or public  
1.13 utility companies and articles, as defined in clause (4), representing trade secrets, which  
1.14 articles shall be deemed for the purposes of Extra Session Laws 1967, chapter 15 to  
1.15 include any trade secret represented by the article.

1.16 (2) "Movable property" is property whose physical location can be changed,  
1.17 including without limitation things growing on, affixed to, or found in land.

(3) "Value" means the retail market value at the time of the theft, or if the retail market value cannot be ascertained, the cost of replacement of the property within a reasonable time after the theft, or in the case of a theft or the making of a copy of an article representing a trade secret, where the retail market value or replacement cost cannot be ascertained, any reasonable value representing the damage to the owner which the owner has suffered by reason of losing an advantage over those who do not know of or use the trade secret. For a check, draft, or other order for the payment of money, "value" means the amount of money promised or ordered to be paid under the terms of the check, draft, or

other order. For a theft committed within the meaning of subdivision 2, clause (5), items (i) and (ii), if the property has been restored to the owner, "value" means the value of the use of the property or the damage which it sustained, whichever is greater, while the owner was deprived of its possession, but not exceeding the value otherwise provided herein. For a theft committed within the meaning of subdivision 2, clause (9), if the property has been restored to the owner, "value" means the rental value of the property, determined at the rental rate contracted by the defendant or, if no rental rate was contracted, the rental rate customarily charged by the owner for use of the property, plus any damage that occurred to the property while the owner was deprived of its possession, but not exceeding the total retail value of the property at the time of rental.

(4) "Article" means any object, material, device or substance, including any writing, record, recording, drawing, sample specimen, prototype, model, photograph, microorganism, blueprint or map, or any copy of any of the foregoing.

(5) "Representing" means describing, depicting, containing, constituting, reflecting or recording.

(6) "Trade secret" means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process, that:

(i) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use, and

(ii) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

(7) "Copy" means any facsimile, replica, photograph or other reproduction of an article, and any note, drawing, or sketch made of or from an article while in the presence of the article.

(8) "Property of another" includes property in which the actor is co-owner or has a lien, pledge, bailment, or lease or other subordinate interest, property transferred by the actor in circumstances which are known to the actor and which make the transfer fraudulent as defined in section 513.44, property possessed pursuant to a short-term rental contract, and property of a partnership of which the actor is a member, unless the actor and the victim are husband and wife. It does not include property in which the actor asserts in good faith a claim as a collection fee or commission out of property or funds recovered, or by virtue of a lien, setoff, or counterclaim.

(9) "Services" include but are not limited to labor, professional services, transportation services, electronic computer services, the supplying of hotel accommodations, restaurant services, entertainment services, advertising services,

3.1 telecommunication services, and the supplying of equipment for use including rental of  
3.2 personal property or equipment.

3.3 (10) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled device for moving persons or property  
3.4 or pulling implements from one place to another, whether the device is operated on land,  
3.5 rails, water, or in the air.

3.6 (11) "Retail property" means any item or items displayed, held, stored, or offered  
3.7 for sale in a retail establishment.

3.8 (12) "Retail establishment" means a place of business open to the general public  
3.9 for the sale of goods or services.

3.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2008, and applies to crimes  
3.11 committed on or after that date.

3.12 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 609.52, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

3.13 Subd. 2. **Acts constituting theft.** Whoever does any of the following commits theft  
3.14 and may be sentenced as provided in subdivision 3:

3.15 (1) intentionally and without claim of right takes, uses, transfers, conceals or retains  
3.16 possession of movable property of another without the other's consent and with intent to  
3.17 deprive the owner permanently of possession of the property; or

3.18 (2) with or without having a legal interest in movable property, intentionally and  
3.19 without consent, takes the property out of the possession of a pledgee or other person  
3.20 having a superior right of possession, with intent thereby to deprive the pledgee or other  
3.21 person permanently of the possession of the property; or

3.22 (3) obtains for the actor or another the possession, custody, or title to property of  
3.23 or performance of services by a third person by intentionally deceiving the third person  
3.24 with a false representation which is known to be false, made with intent to defraud, and  
3.25 which does defraud the person to whom it is made. "False representation" includes  
3.26 without limitation:

3.27 (i) the issuance of a check, draft, or order for the payment of money, except a forged  
3.28 check as defined in section 609.631, or the delivery of property knowing that the actor is  
3.29 not entitled to draw upon the drawee therefor or to order the payment or delivery thereof; or

3.30 (ii) a promise made with intent not to perform. Failure to perform is not evidence of  
3.31 intent not to perform unless corroborated by other substantial evidence; or

3.32 (iii) the preparation or filing of a claim for reimbursement, a rate application, or a  
3.33 cost report used to establish a rate or claim for payment for medical care provided to a  
3.34 recipient of medical assistance under chapter 256B, which intentionally and falsely states  
3.35 the costs of or actual services provided by a vendor of medical care; or

(iv) the preparation or filing of a claim for reimbursement for providing treatment or supplies required to be furnished to an employee under section 176.135 which intentionally and falsely states the costs of or actual treatment or supplies provided; or

(v) the preparation or filing of a claim for reimbursement for providing treatment or supplies required to be furnished to an employee under section 176.135 for treatment or supplies that the provider knew were medically unnecessary, inappropriate, or excessive; or

(4) by swindling, whether by artifice, trick, device, or any other means, obtains property or services from another person; or

(5) intentionally commits any of the acts listed in this subdivision but with intent to exercise temporary control only and:

(i) the control exercised manifests an indifference to the rights of the owner or the restoration of the property to the owner; or

(ii) the actor pledges or otherwise attempts to subject the property to an adverse claim; or

(iii) the actor intends to restore the property only on condition that the owner pay a reward or buy back or make other compensation; or

(6) finds lost property and, knowing or having reasonable means of ascertaining the true owner, appropriates it to the finder's own use or to that of another not entitled thereto without first having made reasonable effort to find the owner and offer and surrender the property to the owner; or

(7) intentionally obtains property or services, offered upon the deposit of a sum of money or tokens in a coin or token operated machine or other receptacle, without making the required deposit or otherwise obtaining the consent of the owner; or

(8) intentionally and without claim of right converts any article representing a trade secret, knowing it to be such, to the actor's own use or that of another person or makes a copy of an article representing a trade secret, knowing it to be such, and intentionally and without claim of right converts the same to the actor's own use or that of another person.

It shall be a complete defense to any prosecution under this clause for the defendant to show that information comprising the trade secret was rightfully known or available to the defendant from a source other than the owner of the trade secret; or

(9) leases or rents personal property under a written instrument and who:

(i) with intent to place the property beyond the control of the lessor conceals or aids or abets the concealment of the property or any part thereof; or

(ii) sells, conveys, or encumbers the property or any part thereof without the written consent of the lessor, without informing the person to whom the lessee sells, conveys, or

5.1 encumbers that the same is subject to such lease or rental contract with intent to deprive  
5.2 the lessor of possession thereof; or

5.3 (iii) does not return the property to the lessor at the end of the lease or rental term,  
5.4 plus agreed upon extensions, with intent to wrongfully deprive the lessor of possession  
5.5 of the property; or

5.6 (iv) returns the property to the lessor at the end of the lease or rental term, plus  
5.7 agreed upon extensions, but does not pay the lease or rental charges agreed upon in the  
5.8 written instrument, with intent to wrongfully deprive the lessor of the agreed upon charges.

5.9 For the purposes of items (iii) and (iv), the value of the property must be at least \$100.

5.10 Evidence that a lessee used a false, fictitious, or not current name, address, or place of  
5.11 employment in obtaining the property or fails or refuses to return the property or pay the  
5.12 rental contract charges to lessor within five days after written demand for the return has  
5.13 been served personally in the manner provided for service of process of a civil action  
5.14 or sent by certified mail to the last known address of the lessee, whichever shall occur  
5.15 later, shall be evidence of intent to violate this clause. Service by certified mail shall be  
5.16 deemed to be complete upon deposit in the United States mail of such demand, postpaid  
5.17 and addressed to the person at the address for the person set forth in the lease or rental  
5.18 agreement, or, in the absence of the address, to the person's last known place of residence;  
5.19 or

5.20 (10) alters, removes, or obliterates numbers or symbols placed on movable property  
5.21 for purpose of identification by the owner or person who has legal custody or right  
5.22 to possession thereof with the intent to prevent identification, if the person who alters,  
5.23 removes, or obliterates the numbers or symbols is not the owner and does not have the  
5.24 permission of the owner to make the alteration, removal, or obliteration; or

5.25 (11) with the intent to prevent the identification of property involved, so as to  
5.26 deprive the rightful owner of possession thereof, alters or removes any permanent serial  
5.27 number, permanent distinguishing number or manufacturer's identification number on  
5.28 personal property or possesses, sells or buys any personal property knowing or having  
5.29 reason to know that the permanent serial number, permanent distinguishing number or  
5.30 manufacturer's identification number has been removed or altered; or

5.31 (12) intentionally deprives another of a lawful charge for cable television service by:

5.32 (i) making or using or attempting to make or use an unauthorized external connection  
5.33 outside the individual dwelling unit whether physical, electrical, acoustical, inductive, or  
5.34 other connection; or by

5.35 (ii) attaching any unauthorized device to any cable, wire, microwave, or other  
5.36 component of a licensed cable communications system as defined in chapter 238. Nothing

herein shall be construed to prohibit the electronic video rerecording of program material transmitted on the cable communications system by a subscriber for fair use as defined by Public Law 94-553, section 107; or

(13) except as provided in paragraphs (12) and (14), obtains the services of another with the intention of receiving those services without making the agreed or reasonably expected payment of money or other consideration; or

(14) intentionally deprives another of a lawful charge for telecommunications service by:

(i) making, using, or attempting to make or use an unauthorized connection whether physical, electrical, by wire, microwave, radio, or other means to a component of a local telecommunication system as provided in chapter 237; or

(ii) attaching an unauthorized device to a cable, wire, microwave, radio, or other component of a local telecommunication system as provided in chapter 237.

The existence of an unauthorized connection is prima facie evidence that the occupier of the premises:

(i) made or was aware of the connection; and

(ii) was aware that the connection was unauthorized; or

(15) with intent to defraud, diverts corporate property other than in accordance with general business purposes or for purposes other than those specified in the corporation's articles of incorporation; or

(16) with intent to defraud, authorizes or causes a corporation to make a distribution in violation of section 302A.551, or any other state law in conformity with it; or

(17) takes or drives a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner or an authorized agent of the owner, knowing or having reason to know that the owner or an authorized agent of the owner did not give consent; or

(18) intentionally and without claim of right takes or removes retail property from a retail establishment with the intent to sell or redistribute the retail property; or

(19) with intent to fraudulently obtain retail property from a retail establishment, affixes a fraudulent product code to the retail property or causes a cash register or other sales recording device to reflect less than the actual sale price of the retail property.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2008, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 609.52, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

7.1           Subd. 2a. **Proof of intent.** For acts committed under subdivision 2, clause (18),  
7.2 proof of intent to sell or redistribute the retail property may be found if the person is  
7.3 found in possession or control of two or more items of retail property stolen from a retail  
7.4 establishment or retail establishments on two or more separate occasions.

7.5           **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2008, and applies to crimes  
7.6 committed on or after that date.

7.7           Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 609.52, subdivision 3, is  
7.8 amended to read:

7.9           Subd. 3. **Sentence.** Whoever commits theft may be sentenced as follows:

7.10           (1) to imprisonment for not more than 20 years or to payment of a fine of not more  
7.11 than \$100,000, or both, if the property is a firearm, or the value of the property or services  
7.12 stolen is more than \$35,000 and the conviction is for a violation of subdivision 2, clause  
7.13 (3), (4), (15), or (16); or

7.14           (2) to imprisonment for not more than ten years or to payment of a fine of not more  
7.15 than \$20,000, or both, if:

7.16           (a) the value of the property or services stolen exceeds \$5,000; or if

7.17           (b) the property stolen was an article representing a trade secret, an explosive or  
7.18 incendiary device, or a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II pursuant to section  
7.19 152.02 with the exception of marijuana; or

7.20           (c) the person is convicted of a third or subsequent offense under clause (4) within  
7.21 three years of the first of two or more previous convictions under clause (4); or

7.22           (3) to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more  
7.23 than \$10,000, or both, if any of the following circumstances exist:

7.24           (a) the value of the property or services stolen is more than \$1,000 but not more  
7.25 than \$5,000; or

7.26           (b) the property stolen was a controlled substance listed in schedule III, IV, or V  
7.27 pursuant to section 152.02; or

7.28           (c) the value of the property or services stolen is more than \$500 but not more  
7.29 than \$1,000 and the person has been convicted within the preceding five years for an  
7.30 offense under this section, section 256.98; 268.182; 609.24; 609.245; 609.53; 609.582,  
7.31 subdivision 1, 2, or 3; 609.625; 609.63; 609.631; or 609.821, or a statute from another  
7.32 state, the United States, or a foreign jurisdiction, in conformity with any of those sections,  
7.33 and the person received a felony or gross misdemeanor sentence for the offense, or a  
7.34 sentence that was stayed under section 609.135 if the offense to which a plea was entered  
7.35 would allow imposition of a felony or gross misdemeanor sentence; or

8.1 (d) the value of the property or services stolen is not more than \$1,000, and any of  
8.2 the following circumstances exist:

8.3 (i) the property is taken from the person of another or from a corpse, or grave or  
8.4 coffin containing a corpse; or

8.5 (ii) the property is a record of a court or officer, or a writing, instrument or record  
8.6 kept, filed or deposited according to law with or in the keeping of any public officer or  
8.7 office; or

8.8 (iii) the property is taken from a burning, abandoned, or vacant building or upon its  
8.9 removal therefrom, or from an area of destruction caused by civil disaster, riot, bombing,  
8.10 or the proximity of battle; or

8.11 (iv) the property consists of public funds belonging to the state or to any political  
8.12 subdivision or agency thereof; or

8.13 (v) the property stolen is a motor vehicle; or

8.14 (e) the person is convicted of a second offense under clause (4) within three years of  
8.15 a previous conviction under clause (4); or

8.16 (4) to imprisonment for not more than three years or to payment of a fine of not more  
8.17 than \$8,000, or both, if any of the following circumstances exist:

8.18 (a) the value of the property stolen is more than \$200 and the conviction is for a  
8.19 violation of subdivision 2, clause (18); or

8.20 (b) the conviction is for a violation of subdivision 2, clause (19); or

8.21 (c) the property stolen is retail property with a value of more than \$50 and is  
8.22 removed from a retail establishment by way of a designated emergency exit; or

8.23 ~~(4)~~ (5) to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of not  
8.24 more than \$3,000, or both, if the value of the property or services stolen is more than  
8.25 \$500 but not more than \$1,000; or

8.26 ~~(5)~~ (6) in all other cases where the value of the property or services stolen is \$500  
8.27 or less, to imprisonment for not more than 90 days or to payment of a fine of not more  
8.28 than \$1,000, or both, provided, however, in any prosecution under subdivision 2, clauses  
8.29 (1), (2), (3), (4), and (13), the value of the money or property or services received  
8.30 by the defendant in violation of any one or more of the above provisions within any  
8.31 six-month period may be aggregated and the defendant charged accordingly in applying  
8.32 the provisions of this subdivision, and in any prosecution under subdivision 2, clauses  
8.33 (18) and (19), the value of the retail property received by the defendant in violation of  
8.34 these provisions within any one-year period may be aggregated and the defendant charged  
8.35 accordingly in applying the provisions of this subdivision; provided that when two or  
8.36 more offenses are committed by the same person in two or more counties, the accused



9.1 may be prosecuted in any county in which one of the offenses was committed for all of the  
9.2 offenses aggregated under this paragraph.

9.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2008, and applies to crimes  
9.4 committed on or after that date.

9.5 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 609.521, is amended to read:

9.6 **609.521 POSSESSION OR USE OF SHOPLIFTING GEAR.**

9.7 **Subdivision 1. Definition.** ~~(a)~~ As used in this section, an "electronic article  
9.8 surveillance system" means any electronic device or devices that are designed to detect the  
9.9 unauthorized removal of marked merchandise from a store.

9.10 **Subd. 2. Prohibited acts.** ~~(b)~~ (a) Whoever has in possession any device, gear, or  
9.11 instrument designed to assist in shoplifting or defeating an electronic article surveillance  
9.12 system with intent to use the same to shoplift and thereby commit theft may be sentenced  
9.13 as provided in subdivision 3 to imprisonment for not more than three years or to payment  
9.14 of a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

9.15 (b) Whoever removes, destroys, or deactivates a component of an electronic  
9.16 article surveillance system with intent to commit theft may be sentenced as provided in  
9.17 subdivision 3.

9.18 **Subd. 3. Penalties.** (a) A person who violates subdivision 2 may be sentenced to  
9.19 imprisonment for not more than three years or to payment of a fine of not more than  
9.20 \$5,000, or both.

9.21 (b) A person who violates subdivision 2 within three years of a previous conviction  
9.22 under subdivision 2 may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or  
9.23 to payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

9.24 (c) A person who violates subdivision 2 within three years of the first of two or more  
9.25 previous convictions under subdivision 2 may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more  
9.26 than ten years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$20,000, or both.

9.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2008, and applies to crimes  
9.28 committed on or after that date.

9.29 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 609.53, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

9.30 Subdivision 1. **Penalty.** Except as otherwise provided in section 609.526, any  
9.31 person who receives, possesses, transfers, buys, or conceals any stolen property or  
9.32 property obtained by robbery, or facilitates any of the foregoing, knowing or having reason

10.1 to know the property was stolen or obtained by robbery, may be sentenced in accordance  
10.2 with the provisions of section 609.52, subdivision 3.

10.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2008, and applies to crimes  
10.4 committed on or after that date.

10.5 Sec. 7. **REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION.**

10.6 In Minnesota Statutes, the revisor of statutes shall correct inaccurate cross-references  
10.7 resulting from the renumbering of clauses in section 609.52, subdivision 3.