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**By: Delegates Finifter, Klausmeier, W. Baker, E. Burns, Crumlin, DeCarlo, Eckardt, Elliott, Frank, Healey, Heller, Hixson, Holt, Howard, Hurson, Leopold, Linton, McClenahan, McKee, Morhaim, Parker, Ports, Shriver, Snodgrass, and Stup**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes and Punishments - Penalty for Theft**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum penalty allowed for a conviction of theft  
4 where the value of the property or services that is the subject of the theft is greater  
5 than a certain amount.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
8 Section 342(f)(1)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1996 Replacement Volume)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

14 342.

15 (f) (1) A person convicted of theft where the property or services that was the  
16 subject of the theft has a value of \$300 or greater is guilty of a felony and shall restore the  
17 property taken to the owner or pay him the value of the property or services, and be fined  
18 not more than [ \$1,000 ] \$50,000, or be imprisoned for not more than 15 years, or be both  
19 fined and imprisoned in the discretion of the court.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 1997.