

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTESenate Bill 211 (Senator Collins, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Crimes - Theft - Fines

This bill increases the monetary penalties for felony and misdemeanor theft. Specifically, the bill increases the maximum fine for felony theft from \$1,000 to \$25,000; and increases the maximum fine for misdemeanor theft from \$500 to \$5,000. The bill does not alter the current law imprisonment penalty for such convictions or the requirement for the convicted person to restore or pay for the stolen property or services.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's increased monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: Minimal increase in local revenues due to the bill's increased monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the circuit courts. No effect on expenditures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person convicted of theft of a property or service with a value of \$500 or more is guilty of a felony and, in addition to having to restore the property or pay the value of the property or service to the owner, is subject to a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for 15 years. A person convicted of theft of a property or service with a value of less than \$500 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, in addition to having to restore the property or pay the value of the property or service to the owner, is subject to a fine of

\$500 and/or imprisonment for 18 months. All actions or prosecutions involving misdemeanor theft must be commenced within two years after the commission of the offense.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – January 31, 2001
jm/jr

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