

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 177      (Delegate Minnick, *et al.*)  
Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Crimes - Felony Theft - Penalties**

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This bill increases, from \$1,000 to \$25,000, the maximum fine for persons convicted of felony theft. 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.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues could increase minimally under the bill's increased monetary penalty provision since some cases would continue to be heard in the District Court.

**Local Effect:** Revenues could increase minimally for various or all county governments under the bill's increased monetary penalty provision since some cases would continue to be heard in the circuit courts.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**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. The District Court and the circuit courts have concurrent jurisdiction over felony theft cases.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** In 2001 a similar bill, HB 172, passed the House and Senate with differing amendments. The bill was referred to a conference committee and had no further action taken on it.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2002  
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