

# HOUSE BILL 115

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CF SB 131

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By: **Delegates Jameson, Cluster, and DeBoy**  
Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2012  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 14, 2012

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Warrantless Arrests – Theft Crimes**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the authority of a police officer without a warrant to  
4 arrest a person suspected of committing a certain theft crime; and generally  
5 relating to warrantless arrests.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Criminal Law  
8 Section 7–104(g) and 7–105  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2002 Volume and 2011 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Criminal Procedure  
13 Section 2–203(a)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Criminal Procedure  
18 Section 2–203(b)(4)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Criminal Law**

4 7–104.

5 (g) (1) A person convicted of theft of property or services with a value of:

6 (i) at least \$1,000 but less than \$10,000 is guilty of a felony  
7 and:

8 1. is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a  
9 fine not exceeding \$10,000 or both; and

10 2. shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay  
11 the owner the value of the property or services;

12 (ii) at least \$10,000 but less than \$100,000 is guilty of a felony  
13 and:

14 1. is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 15 years or a  
15 fine not exceeding \$15,000 or both; and

16 2. shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay  
17 the owner the value of the property or services; or

18 (iii) \$100,000 or more is guilty of a felony and:

19 1. is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 25 years or a  
20 fine not exceeding \$25,000 or both; and

21 2. shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay  
22 the owner the value of the property or services.

23 (2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, a  
24 person convicted of theft of property or services with a value of less than \$1,000, is  
25 guilty of a misdemeanor and:

26 (i) is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 18 months or a fine  
27 not exceeding \$500 or both; and

28 (ii) shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay the  
29 owner the value of the property or services.

30 (3) A person convicted of theft of property or services with a value of  
31 less than \$100 is guilty of a misdemeanor and:

1 (i) is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine  
2 not exceeding \$500 or both; and

3 (ii) shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay the  
4 owner the value of the property or services.

5 (4) Subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, a person who has two  
6 or more prior convictions under this subtitle and who is convicted of theft of property  
7 or services with a value of less than \$1,000 under paragraph (2) of this subsection is  
8 guilty of a misdemeanor and:

9 (i) is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine  
10 not exceeding \$5,000 or both; and

11 (ii) shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay the  
12 owner the value of the property or services.

13 (5) The court may not impose the penalties under paragraph (4) of this  
14 subsection unless the State's Attorney serves notice on the defendant or the  
15 defendant's counsel before the acceptance of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or at  
16 least 15 days before trial that:

17 (i) the State will seek the penalties under paragraph (4) of this  
18 subsection; and

19 (ii) lists the alleged prior convictions.

20 7-105.

21 (a) In this section, "owner" means a person who has a lawful interest in or is  
22 in lawful possession of a motor vehicle by consent or chain of consent of the title  
23 owner.

24 (b) A person may not knowingly and willfully take a motor vehicle out of the  
25 owner's lawful custody, control, or use without the owner's consent.

26 (c) A person who violates this section:

27 (1) is guilty of the felony of taking a motor vehicle and on conviction is  
28 subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both;  
29 and

30 (2) shall restore the motor vehicle or, if unable to restore the motor  
31 vehicle, pay to the owner the full value of the motor vehicle.

1 (d) (1) This section does not preclude prosecution for theft of a motor  
2 vehicle under § 7–104 of this part.

3 (2) If a person is convicted under § 7–104 of this part and this section  
4 for the same act or transaction, the conviction under this section shall merge for  
5 sentencing purposes into the conviction under § 7–104 of this part.

### 6 Article – Criminal Procedure

7 2–203.

8 (a) A police officer without a warrant may arrest a person if the police officer  
9 has probable cause to believe:

10 (1) that the person has committed a crime listed in subsection (b) of  
11 this section; and

12 (2) that unless the person is arrested immediately, the person:

13 (i) may not be apprehended;

14 (ii) may cause physical injury or property damage to another; or

15 (iii) may tamper with, dispose of, or destroy evidence.

16 (b) The crimes referred to in subsection (a)(1) of this section are:

17 (4) a theft crime where the value of the property or services stolen is  
18 less than ~~[\$500]~~ **\$1,000** under § 7–104 or § 7–105 of the Criminal Law Article or an  
19 attempt to commit the crime;

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2012.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.