

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1869

As Reported By House Committee On:
Judiciary

Title: An act relating to criminal possession of leased or rented machinery, equipment or motor vehicles.

Brief Description: Failing to return leased or rented machinery, equipment or motor vehicles.

Sponsors: Representative R. Meyers.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Judiciary, February 2, 1994, DP.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 15 members:
Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Johanson, Vice Chair;
Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes, Assistant
Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Chappell; Eide; Forner;
J. Kohl; Long; Morris; H. Myers; Schmidt; Scott and Tate.

Staff: Pat Shelledy (786-7149).

Background: A person is guilty of criminal possession of leased or rented machinery, equipment or a motor vehicle if:

- (1) the value of the property exceeds \$1,500; and
- (2) the lessee:
 - (a) fails to return the property when due under the terms of a written agreement;
 - (b) is served by registered or certified mail at the lessee's last known address with a written demand to return the property within 72 hours; and
 - (c) willfully neglects to return the property within five business days from the date of service.

A violation of this law is a class C felony.

Summary of Bill: A lessee who fails to return leased equipment, machinery or a motor vehicle as required under the terms of the lease and is 15 full business days late "in honoring the terms of the agreement" is guilty of a class C felony.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The provision will help with enforcement of the crime of failing to return leased property.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Rick Jensen, Washington State Patrol Troopers Association and Car and Truck Rental and Leasing Association (pro).