

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5262

As of January 15, 2002

Title: An act relating to threshold property values for crimes against property.

Brief Description: Changing threshold property values for crimes against property.

Sponsors: Senators Kline, McCaslin, Costa and Winsley.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Judiciary: 1/30/01; 1/17/02.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Staff: Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

Background: The monetary amounts differentiating the various degrees of property crimes in Washington were established in 1975 when the Washington Criminal Code was first established. They have never been adjusted. Since that time, the Consumer Price Index increase has been 3.2 in the United States and 3.5 in Seattle. For comparison, \$250 in 1975 is equivalent to \$800 now and \$1,500 in 1975 dollars is equivalent to \$4,800 now.

Summary of Substitute Bill: Theft in the first degree, possession of stolen property in the first degree, and malicious mischief in the first degree (B felonies) are committed when a person takes or possesses stolen property or harms property valued at more than \$4,500. Theft in the second degree, possession of stolen property in the second degree and malicious mischief in the second degree (C felonies) are committed when a person takes or possesses stolen property valued at more than \$1,000. Theft in the third degree, possession of stolen property in the third degree, and malicious mischief in the third degree (gross misdemeanors) are committed when a person takes or possesses stolen property valued at \$1,000 or less.

Theft of rental or leased property valued at more than \$4,500 is a B felony, while it is a C felony if valued at between \$1,000 and \$4,499 and a gross misdemeanor if valued at less than \$1000.

Unlawful issuance of checks or drafts in an amount greater than \$1,000 is a C felony, while it is a gross misdemeanor if they are in an amount of \$1,000 or less.

Theft of or possession of stolen merchandise or beverage pallets are removed as independent elements of theft in the third degree and possession of stolen property in the third degree.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The original bill was not considered.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 9, 2002.

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