
Judiciary Committee

HB 2284

Title: An act relating to addressing civil liability of parents and legal guardians concerning minors who take possession of goods without consent of the owner or seller.

Brief Description: Addressing civil liability of parents and legal guardians under certain circumstances.

Sponsors: Representative Hunt.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes the minimum and maximum additional civil penalties for which parents and legal guardians are liable when a minor unlawfully takes a retail good, food, or sleeping accommodation.

Hearing Date: 1/23/12

Staff: Valerie Rickman (786-7119).

Background:

A Parent or guardian of an unemancipated minor who unlawfully takes possession of any good, ware, or merchandise is liable to the owner or seller for the retail value of the item or service taken plus an additional penalty and reasonable attorneys' fees. The additional penalty is a minimum of \$150 but cannot exceed \$650.

Summary of Bill:

The additional civil penalty for which a parent or legal guardian is liable is amended. The statutory minimum for the additional penalty of \$150 is removed and the maximum is set as the lesser of \$650 or 25 times the retail value of the unlawfully taken retail good, food, or sleeping accommodation. Provisions related to the penalty for the retail value of the retail good, food, or sleeping accommodation and reasonable attorneys' fee are not changed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.