

1 H.534

2 An act relating to retail theft

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2575 is amended to read:

5 § 2575. OFFENSE OF RETAIL THEFT

6 A person commits the offense of retail theft when the person, with intent of  
7 depriving a merchant wrongfully of the lawful possession of merchandise,  
8 money, or credit:

9 (1) takes and carries away or causes to be taken and carried away or aids  
10 and abets the carrying away of; any merchandise from a retail mercantile  
11 establishment without paying the retail value of the merchandise; or

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 2577 is amended to read:

14 § 2577. PENALTY

15 (a) A person convicted of the offense of retail theft of merchandise having  
16 a retail value not in excess of ~~\$900.00~~ \$250.00 shall be punished by a fine of  
17 not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than ~~six months~~ 30 days,  
18 or both.

19 (b) A person convicted of the offense of retail theft of merchandise having  
20 a retail value in excess of \$250.00 and not in excess of \$900.00 shall:

21 (1) for a first offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or  
22 imprisonment for not more than six months, or both;

1           (2) for a second offense, be punished by a fine of not more than  
2           \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than two years, if the second offense  
3           occurs not more than two years after the first offense;

4           (3) for a third offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,500.00  
5           or imprisonment for not more than three years, or both, if the third offense  
6           occurs not more than two years after the second offense; or

7           (4) for a fourth or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of not more  
8           than \$2,500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both, if the  
9           fourth or subsequent offense occurs not more than two years after the  
10          immediately preceding offense.

11          (c) A person convicted of the offense of retail theft of merchandise having  
12          a retail value in excess of \$900.00 shall be punished by a fine of not more than  
13          \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.

14          (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this  
15          section, a person convicted of retail theft pursuant to:

16                (1) Subdivision 2575(4) of this title shall be imprisoned not more than  
17                two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

18                (2) Subdivision 2575(5), (6), or (7) of this title shall be imprisoned for  
19                not more than 10 years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

20          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21                This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.