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1	TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:
2	The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 534
3	entitled "An act relating to retail theft" respectfully reports that it has
4	considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that
5	the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6	lieu thereof the following:
7	Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2575 is amended to read:
8	§ 2575. OFFENSE OF RETAIL THEFT
9	A person commits the offense of retail theft when the person, with intent of
10	depriving a merchant wrongfully of the lawful possession of merchandise,
11	money, or credit:
12	(1) takes and carries away or causes to be taken and carried away or aids
13	and abets the carrying away of, any merchandise from a retail mercantile
14	establishment without paying the retail value of the merchandise; or
15	* * *
16	Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 2577 is amended to read:
17	§ 2577. PENALTY
18	(a) A person convicted of the offense of retail theft of merchandise having
19	a retail value not in excess of \$900.00 shall:
20	(1) for a first offense, be punished by a fine of not more than $$500.00$ or

21 imprisonment for not more than six months <u>30 days</u>, or both;

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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 six months, or both;
3	(3) for a third offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,500.00
4	or imprisonment for not more than three years, or both; or
5	(4) for a fourth or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of not more
6	than \$2,500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.
7	(b) A person convicted of the offense of retail theft of merchandise having
8	a retail value in excess of \$900.00 shall be punished by a fine of not more than
9	\$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.
10	* * *
11	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
12	This act shall take effect on passage.
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18	(Committee vote:)
19	
20	Senator
21	FOR THE COMMITTEE