

Report of Committee of Conference

H. 534.

An act relating to retail theft.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H. 534 An act relating to retail theft.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

§ 2575. OFFENSE OF RETAIL THEFT

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

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

* * *

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

§ 2577. PENALTY

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

(b) A person convicted of the offense of retail theft of merchandise having a retail value in excess of \$250.00 and not in excess of \$900 shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

PHILIP E. BARUTH

RICHARD W. SEARS

ROBERT W. NORRIS

Committee on the part of the Senate

WILLIAM J. NOTTE

THOMAS B. BURDITT

KAREN DOLAN

Committee on the part of the House