

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI

CRIME/THEFT: Provides relative to theft prevention programs

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 215(C) and R.S. 14:66(A)(2) and
3 to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 215(A)(3), relative to theft of goods; to
4 provide relative to theft prevention programs; to prohibit the exclusion of
5 participants based upon certain factors; to provide relative to a fee; to provide
6 relative to certain requirements of the program; to provide definitions; and to provide
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 215(C) is hereby amended and
10 reenacted and Code of Criminal Procedure Article 215(A)(3) is hereby enacted to read as
11 follows:

12 Art. 215. Detention and arrest of shoplifters

13 A.

14 * * *

15 (3)(a) A merchant or a specifically authorized employee or agent of a
16 merchant who has reasonable cause to believe that a person has committed a theft of
17 goods held for sale by the merchant, is not precluded from offering such person the
18 opportunity to complete a theft prevention program in lieu of reporting the suspected
19 theft to law enforcement. The provisions of this Subparagraph apply only to those
20 merchants who employ at least twenty-five persons.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Specify that the proposed law authority to offer a person suspected of theft the opportunity to complete a pre-arrest theft prevention program in lieu of reporting the offense to law enforcement applies only to a merchant, or an authorized agent or employee of a merchant, who employs at least 25 persons.
2. Provide that the fee to participate in the program shall not exceed \$500.
3. Specify that the proposed law theft prevention program is a pre-arrest program.