

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 212

BY REPRESENTATIVES JACKSON AND DWIGHT

CRIME/THEFT: Creates the crimes of theft of livestock and theft of timber

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:67.1 and 67.2, relative to theft; to create the crimes of theft of livestock and  
3 theft of timber; to provide for definitions; to provide for criminal penalties; to  
4 provide for duties of enforcement and investigation; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 14:67.1 and 67.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §67.1. Theft of livestock

9 A. Any of the following acts shall constitute theft of livestock:

10 (1) The misappropriation or taking of livestock belonging to another or  
11 proceeds derived from the sale of such livestock or its meat, whether done without  
12 the consent of the owner to the misappropriation or taking, or by means of fraudulent  
13 conduct, practices, or representations, with the intent to deprive the owner  
14 permanently of the livestock or proceeds derived from the sale of the livestock or its  
15 meat.

16 (2) Transporting or causing the transportation of livestock to a  
17 slaughterhouse or a public livestock market as defined in R.S. 3:663, for purposes  
18 of selling or keeping the livestock or meat with an intent to deprive the owner  
19 permanently of the livestock or meat or proceeds derived from the sale of the  
20 livestock or meat.

1           (3) Failing or refusing to pay for livestock purchased from an agent, dealer,  
2           public livestock market as defined in R.S. 3:663, or owner, or acquired with the  
3           consent of the agent, dealer, public livestock market, or owner, within thirty days of  
4           the date the livestock was purchased or acquired or the date payment was due,  
5           whichever is longer, with the intent to permanently deprive the other of the livestock  
6           or the value of the livestock.

7           B. Either of the following acts shall constitute presumptive evidence of the  
8           intent to permanently deprive the other of the livestock or meat, or proceeds derived  
9           from sale of the livestock or meat:

10           (1) Assignment of the livestock in a record book maintained by a  
11           slaughterhouse or public livestock market as defined in R.S. 3:663, in a name other  
12           than that of the owner.

13           (2) Failing to pay for the livestock within ten days after notice of a request  
14           for payment or return of the livestock or meat has been sent by the agent, dealer,  
15           public livestock market as defined in R.S. 3:663, or owner, to the offender's last  
16           known address by either registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by  
17           actual delivery by a commercial courier.

18           C. Affirmative defenses shall include but not be limited to a contract  
19           establishing longer terms for payment and fraud with regard to the quality of the  
20           livestock.

21           D. "Livestock" means any animal except dogs and cats, bred, kept,  
22           maintained, raised, or used for profit, that is used in agriculture, aquaculture,  
23           agritourism, competition, recreation, or silvaculture, or for other related purposes or  
24           used in the production of crops, animals, or plant or animal products for market. This  
25           definition includes but is not limited to cattle, buffalo, bison, oxen, and other bovine;  
26           horses, mules, donkeys, and other equine; goats; sheep; swine; chickens, turkeys, and  
27           other poultry; domestic rabbits; imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, farm-raised  
28           white-tailed deer, farm-raised ratites, and other farm-raised exotic animals; fish, pet  
29           turtles, and other animals identified with aquaculture which are located in artificial

1 reservoirs or enclosures that are both on privately owned property and constructed  
2 so as to prevent, at all times, the ingress and egress of fish life from public waters;  
3 any commercial crawfish from any crawfish pond; and any hybrid, mixture, or  
4 mutation of any such animal.

5 E. The Livestock Brand Commission shall have primary responsibility for  
6 the enforcement and collection of information in such cases, and livestock brand  
7 inspectors shall aid all law enforcement agencies in such investigations.

8 F. Whoever commits the crime of theft of livestock shall be fined not more  
9 than five thousand dollars, imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than  
10 ten years, or both.

11 §67.2. Theft of timber

12 A. Theft of timber is the misappropriation or taking of timber belonging to  
13 another, or proceeds derived from the sale of such timber, either taken without the  
14 consent of the owner, or by means of fraudulent conduct, practices, or  
15 representations, with the intent to deprive the owner permanently of the timber or  
16 proceeds derived therefrom.

17 B.(1) Whoever commits the crime of theft of timber when the  
18 misappropriation or taking amounts to a value of twenty-five thousand dollars or  
19 more shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars and imprisoned at hard labor  
20 for not more than ten years.

21 (2) When the misappropriation or taking amounts to a value of less than  
22 twenty-five thousand dollars, the offender shall be imprisoned, with or without hard  
23 labor, for not more than five years, fined not more than five thousand dollars, or  
24 both.

25 C. The enforcement division of the office of forestry within the Department  
26 of Agriculture and Forestry shall have primary responsibility for collection,  
27 preparation, and central registry of information relating to theft of timber and shall  
28 assist all law enforcement agencies in investigations of violations of the provisions  
29 of this Section.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 212 Original

2018 Regular Session

Jackson

**Abstract:** Reinstates the law regarding theft of timber and theft of livestock that were repealed by Act No. 281 of the 2017 R.S.

Present law provides for the general crime of theft.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law reenacts the provisions of law regarding theft of livestock and theft of timber which were repealed by Act No. 281 of the 2017 R.S. For the crime of theft of livestock, proposed law provides for criminal penalties including a fine of \$5,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor, for not more than 10 years, or both. For the crime of theft of timber, proposed law provides for criminal penalties dependent upon the value of the timber taken.

(Adds R.S. 14:67.1 and 67.2)