
DIGEST

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HB 359 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Abstract: Provides relative to the elements and penalties of the crime of looting.

Present law provides that looting is the unauthorized entry into certain structures or property belonging to another without authorization under certain circumstances and the obtaining, exerting control, damaging, or removing of the property of the owner when normal security is not present due to certain events.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that for the crime of looting to apply, the removal of the property belonging to another must be without authorization.

Present law provides that a person who commits the crime of looting shall be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned at hard labor for not more than 15 years, or both.

Proposed law increases the penalty for the crime of looting from a fine of not more than \$10,000 to a fine of not more than \$25,000, imprisonment at hard labor from not more than 15 years to not more than 20 years, or both.

Present law further provides that a person who commits the crime of looting during a state of emergency as declared by the governor or chief executive officer of any parish shall be fined not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000 and imprisoned at hard labor for not less than three years nor more than 15 years without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

Proposed law increases the penalty of looting during a state emergency from a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000 to a fine of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$25,000 and imprisonment at hard labor without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension from not less than three years nor more than 15 years to not less than five years nor more than 20 years.

Effective July 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 14:62.5)