

# HOUSE BILL 269

E2, E1

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0959  
CF 5lr0960

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By: **Delegate Conaway**

Requested: September 26, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Petty Theft – Statute of Limitations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the statute of limitations applicable to the crime of theft of  
4 property or services with less than a certain value; and generally relating to theft.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
6 Article – Criminal Law  
7 Section 7–104(g)(2) and (3)  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Criminal Law  
12 Section 7–104(i)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Criminal Law**

18 7–104.

19 (g) (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person  
20 convicted of theft of property or services with a value of at least \$100 but less than \$1,500,  
21 is guilty of a misdemeanor and:

22 (i) is subject to:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                                   1.     for a first conviction, imprisonment not exceeding 6  
2 months or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both; and

3                                   2.     for a second or subsequent conviction, imprisonment not  
4 exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both; and

5                                   (ii)   shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay the owner  
6 the value of the property or services.

7                                   (3)   A person convicted of theft of property or services with a value of less  
8 than \$100 is guilty of a misdemeanor and:

9                                   (i)   is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not  
10 exceeding \$500 or both; and

11                                  (ii)   shall restore the property taken to the owner or pay the owner  
12 the value of the property or services.

13                                  (i)   **(1)**   An action or prosecution for a violation of subsection (g)(2) [or (3)] of  
14 this section shall be commenced within 2 years after the commission of the crime.

15                                  **(2)**   **AN ACTION OR PROSECUTION FOR A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION**  
16 **(G)(3) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE COMMENCED WITHIN 3 YEARS AFTER THE**  
17 **COMMISSION OF THE CRIME.**

18                                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2025.