Committee Substitute for House Bill 2367

By Delegates R. Miller, Marcum, Eldridge, Rodigheiro, Phillips, Sobonya, Lovejoy and Hicks

[Passed April 8, 2017; in effect ninety days from passage.]
Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2367

BY DELEGATES R. MILLER, MARCUM, ELDRIDGE, RODIGHEIRO, PHILLIPS, SOBONYA, LOVEJOY AND HICKS

[Passed April 8, 2017; in effect ninety days from passage.]
AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-3A-7, relating to establishing the offenses of organized retail theft and knowing purchase of materials obtained by organized retail theft; establishing elements of offenses; defining terms; establishing criminal penalties; providing for the cumulation of merchandise values; providing for prosecution in any county in which any part of an offense occurs; providing for seizure and forfeiture of cash, assets or other property derived in part or total from any proceeds from participating in a violation of the section; and authorizing a sentencing court to order disgorgement of illegal gains.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-3A-7, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3A. SHOPLIFTING.

§61-3A-7. Organized retail theft; offenses; penalties; cumulation; venue; forfeiture.

(a) Any person who enters into a common scheme or plan with two or more other persons to violate the provisions of section one of this article involving merchandise of a cumulative value of $2,000 or more with the intent to sell, trade or otherwise distribute the merchandise shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a determinate term of not less than one nor more than ten years or be fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $10,000, or both imprisoned and fined.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section any person who enters into a common scheme or plan with two or more other persons to violate the provisions of section one of this article involving merchandise of a cumulative value of $10,000 or more with the intent to sell, trade or otherwise distribute the merchandise shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a determinate term of not less than two nor more than twenty years fined not less than $2,000 nor more than $25,000, or both imprisoned and fined.
(c) Any person who purchases, trades or barters for, or otherwise obtains with any form of consideration, merchandise from persons he knows or has reason to believe was obtained by three or more persons engaged in a common scheme or plan to violate the provisions of section one of this article shall be guilty of a felony.

(d) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of this section by purchasing, trading or bartering for merchandise with a cumulative value of $2,000 or more shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a determinate term of not less than one year, nor more than ten years or fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $10,000, or both imprisoned and fined.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of this section by purchasing, trading or bartering for merchandise with a cumulative value of $10,000 or more shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a determinate term of not less than two years, nor more than twenty years or fined not less than $2,000 nor more than $25,000, or both imprisoned and fined.

(f) In determining the value of merchandise in a prosecution under this section, it is permissible to cumulate the value of merchandise obtained as part of a common scheme or plan.

(g) Violations of subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section occurring in one or more counties of this state may be prosecuted in any county wherein any part of the offense was committed and the provisions of subsection (f) of this section are applicable to offenses so occurring.

(h)(1) Any interest a person has acquired or maintained in any cash, asset or other property of value in any form, derived in part or total from any proceeds obtained from participating in a violation of this section, may be seized and forfeited consistent with the procedures in the West Virginia Contraband Forfeiture Act, as provided in article seven, chapter sixty-a of this code.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, at sentencing for a violation of this section, the court may direct disgorgement to the victim or victims of any cash, asset or other property of value in any form, derived in part or total from any proceeds obtained from such violation.
Enr. CS for HB 2367

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman, House Committee

Chairman, Senate Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Clerk of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

The within is approved this the 26th day of April, 2017.

Governor