

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 13-0372.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**HOUSE BILL 13-1160**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Pabon,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**King,**

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**House Committees**  
Judiciary

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING CRIMINAL THEFT.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill amends the penalties for criminal theft and amends criminal theft to include the existing statutory offenses of theft of rental property and theft by receiving. The existing statutory offenses of theft of rental property, theft by receiving, fuel piracy, and newspaper theft are repealed.

The bill makes conforming amendments.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-4-401, **amend** (1),  
3 (2) (b), (2) (c), (2) (d), and (4); **repeal** (2) (b.5); and **add** (2) (e), (2) (f),  
4 (2) (g), (2) (h), (2) (i), and (2) (j) as follows:

5 **18-4-401. Theft.** (1) A person commits theft when he OR SHE  
6 knowingly obtains, RETAINS, or exercises control over anything of value  
7 of another without authorization; or by threat or deception, HE OR SHE  
8 OBTAINS CONTROL OVER STOLEN PROPERTY KNOWING OR BELIEVING THE  
9 PROPERTY TO HAVE BEEN STOLEN, and:

10 (a) Intends to deprive the other person permanently of the use or  
11 benefit of the thing of value; ~~or~~

12 (b) Knowingly uses, conceals, or abandons the thing of value in  
13 such manner as to deprive the other person permanently of its use or  
14 benefit; ~~or~~

15 (c) Uses, conceals, or abandons the thing of value intending that  
16 such use, concealment, or abandonment will deprive the other person  
17 permanently of its use ~~and~~ OR benefit; ~~or~~

18 (d) Demands any consideration to which he OR SHE is not legally  
19 entitled as a condition of restoring the thing of value to the other person;  
20 OR

21 (e) IF THE THING OF VALUE WAS FOR HIRE OR FOR LEASE,  
22 KNOWINGLY FAILS TO RETURN THE THING OF VALUE WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO  
23 HOURS OF THE AGREED-UPON TIME OF RETURN.

24 (2) Theft is:

25 (b) A ~~class 2 misdemeanor~~ CLASS 1 PETTY OFFENSE if the value of  
26 the thing involved is less than ~~five~~ ONE hundred dollars;

1           (b.5) ~~A class 1 misdemeanor if the value of the thing involved is~~  
2 ~~five hundred dollars or more but less than one thousand dollars;~~

3           (c) ~~A class 4 felony~~ CLASS 3 MISDEMEANOR if the value of the  
4 thing involved is one ~~thousand~~ HUNDRED dollars or more but less than  
5 ~~twenty thousand~~ THREE HUNDRED dollars;

6           (d) ~~A class 3 felony~~ CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR if the value of the  
7 thing involved is ~~twenty thousand dollars or more~~ THREE HUNDRED  
8 DOLLARS OR MORE BUT LESS THAN SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS;

9           (e) A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR IF THE VALUE OF THE THING  
10 INVOLVED IS SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS OR MORE BUT LESS THAN  
11 TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS;

12           (f) A CLASS 6 FELONY IF THE VALUE OF THE THING INVOLVED IS  
13 TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MORE BUT LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND  
14 DOLLARS;

15           (g) A CLASS 5 FELONY IF THE VALUE OF THE THING INVOLVED IS  
16 FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MORE BUT LESS THAN TWENTY THOUSAND  
17 DOLLARS;

18           (h) A CLASS 4 FELONY IF THE VALUE OF THE THING INVOLVED IS  
19 TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MORE BUT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED  
20 THOUSAND DOLLARS;

21           (i) A CLASS 3 FELONY IF THE VALUE OF THE THING INVOLVED IS  
22 ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MORE BUT LESS THAN ONE MILLION  
23 DOLLARS; AND

24           (j) A CLASS 2 FELONY IF THE VALUE OF THE THING INVOLVED IS  
25 ONE MILLION DOLLARS OR MORE.

26           (4) (a) When a person commits theft twice or more within a period  
27 of six months, two or more of the thefts may be aggregated and charged

1 in a single count, in which event the thefts so aggregated and charged  
2 shall constitute a single offense, ~~and, if THE PENALTY FOR WHICH SHALL~~  
3 ~~BE BASED ON the aggregate value of the things involved, is one thousand~~  
4 ~~dollars or more but less than twenty thousand dollars, it is a class 4~~  
5 ~~felony; however, if the aggregate value of the things involved is twenty~~  
6 ~~thousand dollars or more, it is a class 3 felony PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION~~  
7 (2) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (b) When a person commits theft twice or more against the same  
9 person pursuant to one scheme or course of conduct, the thefts may be  
10 aggregated and charged in a single count, in which event they shall  
11 constitute a single offense, ~~and, if THE PENALTY FOR WHICH SHALL BE~~  
12 ~~BASED ON the aggregate value of the things involved, is one thousand~~  
13 ~~dollars or more but less than twenty thousand dollars, it is a class 4~~  
14 ~~felony; however, if the aggregate value of the things involved is twenty~~  
15 ~~thousand dollars or more, it is a class 3 felony PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION~~  
16 (2) OF THIS SECTION.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 18-4-402 as  
18 follows:

19 **18-4-402. Theft of rental property.** ~~(1) A person commits theft~~  
20 ~~of rental property if he:~~

21 ~~(a) Obtains the temporary use of personal property of another,~~  
22 ~~which is available only for hire, by means of threat or deception, or~~  
23 ~~knowing that such use is without the consent of the person providing the~~  
24 ~~personal property; or~~

25 ~~(b) Having lawfully obtained possession for temporary use of the~~  
26 ~~personal property of another which is available only for hire, knowingly~~  
27 ~~fails to reveal the whereabouts of or to return said property to the owner~~

1     thereof or his representative or to the person from whom he has received  
2     it within seventy-two hours after the time at which he agreed to return it.

3             (2) ~~(Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1691, § 4, effective July~~  
4     ~~1, 2007.)~~

5             (3) ~~Theft of rental property is a class 2 misdemeanor where the~~  
6     ~~value of the property involved is less than five hundred dollars.~~

7             (3.5) ~~Theft of rental property is a class 1 misdemeanor where the~~  
8     ~~value of the property involved is five hundred dollars or more but less~~  
9     ~~than one thousand dollars.~~

10            (4) ~~Theft of rental property is a class 5 felony where the value of~~  
11     ~~the property involved is one thousand dollars or more but less than twenty~~  
12     ~~thousand dollars.~~

13            (5) ~~Theft of rental property is a class 3 felony where the value of~~  
14     ~~the property involved is twenty thousand dollars or more.~~

15            (6) ~~When a person commits theft of rental property twice or more~~  
16     ~~within a period of six months, two or more of the thefts of rental property~~  
17     ~~may be aggregated and charged in a single count, in which event the~~  
18     ~~thefts so aggregated and charged shall constitute a single offense, and, if~~  
19     ~~the aggregate value of the property involved is one thousand dollars or~~  
20     ~~more but less than twenty thousand dollars, it is a class 5 felony; however,~~  
21     ~~if the aggregate value of the property involved is twenty thousand dollars~~  
22     ~~or more, it is a class 3 felony.~~

23            **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 18-4-410 as  
24     follows:

25            **18-4-410. Theft by receiving.** ~~(1) Except as provided in~~  
26     ~~subsection (6) of this section, a person commits theft by receiving when~~  
27     ~~he receives, retains, loans money by pawn or pledge on, or disposes of~~

1 anything of value of another, knowing or believing that said thing of  
2 value has been stolen, and when he intends to deprive the lawful owner  
3 permanently of the use or benefit of the thing of value.

4 (2) ~~(Deleted by amendment, L. 2007, p. 1692, § 6, effective July  
5 1, 2007.)~~

6 (3) ~~Where the value of the thing involved is less than five hundred  
7 dollars, theft by receiving is a class 2 misdemeanor.~~

8 ~~(3.5) Where the value of the thing involved is five hundred dollars  
9 or more but less than one thousand dollars, theft by receiving is a class 1  
10 misdemeanor.~~

11 (4) ~~Where the value of the thing involved is one thousand dollars  
12 or more but less than twenty thousand dollars, theft by receiving is a class  
13 4 felony.~~

14 (5) ~~Where the value of the thing involved is twenty thousand  
15 dollars or more, theft by receiving is a class 3 felony.~~

16 (6) ~~When the aggregate value of the thing or things involved is  
17 one thousand dollars or more and the person committing theft by  
18 receiving is engaged in the business of buying, selling, or otherwise  
19 disposing of stolen goods for a profit, theft by receiving is a class 3  
20 felony.~~

21 (7) ~~When a person commits theft by receiving twice or more  
22 within a period of six months, two or more of the thefts by receiving may  
23 be aggregated and charged in a single count, in which event the thefts so  
24 aggregated and charged shall constitute a single offense, and, if the  
25 aggregate value of the things involved is one thousand dollars or more but  
26 less than twenty thousand dollars, it is a class 4 felony; however, if the  
27 aggregate value of the things involved is twenty thousand dollars or more,~~

1 ~~it is a class 3 felony.~~

2 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 18-4-411 as  
3 follows:

4 **18-4-411. Transactions for profit in stolen goods.** If any person  
5 ~~commits theft by receiving as defined in section 18-4-410 (1) when~~  
6 OBTAINS CONTROL OVER STOLEN PROPERTY KNOWING OR BELIEVING THE  
7 PROPERTY TO HAVE BEEN STOLEN, AND such offense involves two or more  
8 separate stolen things of value each of which is the property of a separate  
9 owner, such commission of theft ~~by receiving~~ constitutes prima facie  
10 evidence that the person is engaged in the business of buying, selling, or  
11 otherwise disposing of stolen goods for a profit.

12 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 18-4-418 as  
13 follows:

14 **18-4-418. Fuel piracy.** ~~(1) A person commits fuel piracy when~~  
15 ~~such person knowingly leaves the premises of an establishment that offers~~  
16 ~~fuel for sale after dispensing fuel and knowingly fails to pay for such fuel.~~

17 ~~(2) Fuel piracy is:~~

18 ~~(a) A class 3 misdemeanor if the value of such fuel is less than~~  
19 ~~one hundred dollars;~~

20 ~~(b) A class 2 misdemeanor if the value of such fuel is one hundred~~  
21 ~~dollars or more but less than five hundred dollars.~~

22 ~~(3) In addition to any other penalty authorized by law, after a~~  
23 ~~defendant has been convicted of or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo~~  
24 ~~contendere to fuel piracy, the mandatory minimum fine shall be two~~  
25 ~~hundred fifty dollars.~~

26 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 18-4-419 as  
27 follows:

1           **18-4-419. Newspaper theft.** ~~(1) A person commits the offense~~  
2 ~~of newspaper theft when that person obtains or exerts unauthorized~~  
3 ~~control over more than five copies of an edition of a newspaper from a~~  
4 ~~newspaper distribution container owned or leased by the newspaper~~  
5 ~~publisher with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that~~  
6 ~~edition of the newspaper. Control is unauthorized if there is a notice on~~  
7 ~~the newspaper or on the newspaper distribution container that possession~~  
8 ~~of more than five copies with intent to prevent other individuals from~~  
9 ~~reading that edition of the newspaper is illegal.~~

10           ~~(2) Newspaper theft is a misdemeanor and shall be punished by~~  
11 ~~a fine of:~~

12           ~~(a) Up to one thousand dollars if the number of newspapers~~  
13 ~~involved was one hundred or fewer or the number of newspapers~~  
14 ~~involved was not determined;~~

15           ~~(b) Up to two thousand five hundred dollars if the number of~~  
16 ~~newspapers involved was more than one hundred and fewer than five~~  
17 ~~hundred;~~

18           ~~(c) Up to five thousand dollars if the number of newspapers~~  
19 ~~involved was five hundred or more.~~

20           ~~(3) As used in this section:~~

21           ~~(a) "Edition of a newspaper" means a single press run of a~~  
22 ~~newspaper.~~

23           ~~(b) "Newspaper" means a periodical that includes news, editorials,~~  
24 ~~opinion, features, or other matters of public interest that is distributed on~~  
25 ~~a complimentary basis. Newspaper includes any student periodical~~  
26 ~~distributed at any institution of higher education.~~

27           ~~(c) "Periodical" means a publication produced on a regular~~



1 interval.

2 ~~(4) Notwithstanding any other remedies provided under this~~  
3 ~~section, a newspaper publisher who is the victim of newspaper theft, an~~  
4 ~~advertiser who placed an advertisement in a newspaper that was subject~~  
5 ~~to newspaper theft, or a newspaper reader who regularly reads the~~  
6 ~~newspaper subject to newspaper theft shall have a private civil right of~~  
7 ~~action as provided in section 13-21-123, C.R.S., against the person or~~  
8 ~~persons who acted in violation of subsection (1) of this section.~~

9 (5) This section shall not apply to a person who, with the authority  
10 or permission of the person who possesses real or personal property,  
11 removes or disposes of newspapers that have been deposited in or left on  
12 that property without the authority or permission of the person who  
13 possesses the real or personal property.

14 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 13-21-123 as  
15 follows:

16 **13-21-123. Civil liability for newspaper theft.** Notwithstanding  
17 ~~any other remedies provided under this section, a newspaper publisher~~  
18 ~~who is the victim of newspaper theft as described in section 18-4-419,~~  
19 ~~C.R.S., or who had compensatory newspapers stolen, an advertiser who~~  
20 ~~placed an advertisement in a newspaper that was subject to newspaper~~  
21 ~~theft or a compensatory newspaper that was stolen, or a newspaper reader~~  
22 ~~who regularly reads a newspaper subject to newspaper theft or a~~  
23 ~~compensatory newspaper that was stolen shall have a private civil right~~  
24 ~~of action against the party who stole the newspapers. In any such action,~~  
25 ~~the newspaper publisher shall be entitled to actual damages, a civil~~  
26 ~~penalty of ten dollars for each newspaper obtained in violation of section~~  
27 ~~18-4-419, C.R.S., and attorney fees and costs, and the advertiser or~~

1 ~~newspaper reader shall be entitled to actual damages and attorney fees~~  
2 ~~and costs.~~

3 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-13-303, **amend**  
4 (1) (e) (I) and (1) (e) (II) as follows:

5 **16-13-303. Class 1 public nuisance.** (1) Every building or part  
6 of a building including the ground upon which it is situate and all fixtures  
7 and contents thereof, every vehicle, and any real property shall be deemed  
8 a class 1 public nuisance when:

9 (e) (I) Used as a place where the commission of ~~felony~~ theft, ~~by~~  
10 ~~receiving~~, as specified in ~~section 18-4-410, C.R.S.~~, occurs or as a place  
11 ~~where misdemeanor theft by receiving, as specified in said section,~~  
12 ~~repeatedly~~ SECTION 18-4-401, C.R.S., occurs;

13 (II) Used for transporting property which is the subject of ~~felony~~  
14 ~~theft, by receiving~~, as specified in ~~section 18-4-410, C.R.S.~~, or used for  
15 ~~repeatedly transporting property which is the subject of misdemeanor~~  
16 ~~theft by receiving, as specified in said section 18-4-401, C.R.S.;~~

17 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1-202, **repeal** (7)  
18 (b) (II) (B) and (7) (b) (II) (C) as follows:

19 **18-1-202. Place of trial.** (7) (b) (II) The provisions of  
20 subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b) shall apply to the following  
21 offenses:

22 (B) ~~Theft of rental property, as defined in section 18-4-402;~~

23 (C) ~~Theft by receiving, as defined in section 18-4-410;~~

24 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-13-115, **amend**  
25 (1) as follows:

26 **18-13-115. Notice - penalties.** (1) Except in the case of flea  
27 markets and similar facilities as provided in this subsection (1), every

1 secondhand dealer shall conspicuously post a notice in a place clearly  
2 visible to all buyers and traders which sets forth the provisions of this  
3 section and of sections 18-13-114 and 18-13-116 and which sets forth the  
4 penalties for violating such sections and for violating ~~section 18-4-410~~  
5 SECTION 18-4-401, concerning theft. ~~by receiving~~. Such notification shall  
6 include information to the effect that stolen property may be confiscated  
7 by any peace officer and returned to the rightful owner without  
8 compensation to the buyer. In the case of flea markets and similar  
9 facilities, the operator thereof shall post the notice required in this  
10 subsection (1) in such a manner as to be obvious to all persons who enter  
11 the flea market or similar facility.

12 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-17-103, **amend**  
13 (5) (b) (II) as follows:

14 **18-17-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
15 otherwise requires:

16 (5) "Racketeering activity" means to commit, to attempt to  
17 commit, to conspire to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or intimidate another  
18 person to commit:

19 (b) Any violation of the following provisions of the Colorado  
20 statutes or any criminal act committed in any jurisdiction of the United  
21 States which, if committed in this state, would be a crime under the  
22 following provisions of the Colorado statutes:

23 (II) Offenses against property, as defined in sections 18-4-102  
24 (first degree arson), 18-4-103 (second degree arson), 18-4-104 (third  
25 degree arson), 18-4-105 (fourth degree arson), 18-4-202 (first degree  
26 burglary), 18-4-203 (second degree burglary), 18-4-301 (robbery),  
27 18-4-302 (aggravated robbery), 18-4-303 (aggravated robbery of

1 controlled substances), 18-4-401 (theft), ~~18-4-402 (theft of rental~~  
2 ~~property)~~; 18-4-409 (aggravated motor vehicle theft), ~~18-4-410 (theft by~~  
3 ~~receiving)~~; and 18-4-501 (criminal mischief);

4 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-2-127, **repeal**  
5 (15) as follows:

6 **42-2-127. Authority to suspend license - to deny license - type**  
7 **of conviction - points.** (15) (a) ~~(I) Whenever the department receives~~  
8 ~~notice that a person has twice been convicted of, adjudicated for, or~~  
9 ~~entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a violation of section~~  
10 ~~18-4-418, C.R.S., the department shall suspend the license of the person~~  
11 ~~for a period of six months.~~

12 ~~(H) Whenever the department receives notice that a person has~~  
13 ~~three or more times been convicted of, adjudicated for, or entered a plea~~  
14 ~~of guilty or nolo contendere to a violation of section 18-4-418, C.R.S., the~~  
15 ~~department shall suspend the license of the person for a period of one~~  
16 ~~year.~~

17 ~~(b) Upon suspending the license of any person as required by this~~  
18 ~~subsection (15), the department shall immediately notify the licensee as~~  
19 ~~provided in section 42-2-119 (2).~~

20 ~~(c) Upon a licensee's receipt of the notice of suspension, the~~  
21 ~~licensee or the licensee's attorney may submit a written request to the~~  
22 ~~department for a hearing. The department shall hold a hearing not less~~  
23 ~~than thirty days after receiving such request. The hearing shall be~~  
24 ~~conducted by a hearing commissioner appointed by the executive director~~  
25 ~~of the department, and shall be conducted in accordance with the~~  
26 ~~provisions of section 24-4-105, C.R.S.~~

27 ~~(d) If a driver who has had a license suspended under this~~

1 ~~subsection (15) is subsequently acquitted of such charge by a court of~~  
2 ~~record, the department shall immediately, or in any event no later than ten~~  
3 ~~days after the receipt of notice of such acquittal, reinstate said license.~~

4           **SECTION 13. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.