

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 205
Version: Second Engrossment
Authors: Nornes and Others
Subject: Gasoline Theft
Analyst: Jeffrey P. Diebel, 651-296-5041

DATE: April 16, 2001

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill allows motor fuel retailers to obtain civil penalties from motor vehicle owners who leave without paying for gas.

Section

- 1 **Theft of motor fuel; civil liability.**
 - Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines "motor fuel," "retailer," and "vehicle."
 - Subd. 2. Violation and civil penalties.** Subjects motor vehicle owners to civil penalties for gas drive-offs. Allows retailers to recover the cost of the fuel and a service charge of up to \$20 or the actual cost of collection, not to exceed \$30. Retailers can impose the service charge by sending a notice to the owner, if notice of the service fee was conspicuously displayed on the retailer's premises. Subjects the recipient of stolen motor fuel to a civil penalty of up to \$100 if the recipient does not reimburse the retailer for the cost of the gas and the service charge within 30 days of receiving the notice.
 - Subd. 3. Notice of nonpayment.** Establishes procedures that retailers must follow in providing notice of nonpayment to vehicle owners.
 - Subd. 4. Notice of dispute.** The vehicle owner can dispute the retailer's claim by providing written notice to the retailer within 30 days of service of the retailer's notice.
- 2 **Effective Date.** Establishes August 1, 2001 as the effective date.