

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 205 **DATE:** March 15, 2001
Version: Delete Everything Amendment (A01-0132)
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Subject: Gasoline Theft
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Overview

This bill allows motor fuel retailers to assess civil penalties against 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.