

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Version: First Engrossment
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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.