

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Damages for Graffiti

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Section

- 1** **Graffiti damage action.** Defines "graffiti" to mean unauthorized markings on public or privately owned real or personal property, which markings are visible from premises open to the public. Creates a cause of action for damages by the property owner. Allows recovery of three times the cost of restoring the property. Allows the court to order a defendant to do restoration work, as an alternative to damages. Allows recovery of damages from the parents of a minor on the same terms that now apply to parental liability for acts of minors (up to \$1,000 damages). Allows the court to award attorney fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff.
- 2** **Effective date; application.** Section 1 is effective August 1, 2003 for causes of action arising on or after that date.