

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 339

DATE: February 24, 2003

Version: As introduced

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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 an indigent 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 current apply to parental liability for acts of minors (up to \$1,000 damages). Requires 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.