

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 695

**DATE:** March 16, 2005

**Version:** As Introduced

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**Subject:** Pirating Movies

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### Overview

This bill prohibits the use of audiovisual recording devices in movie theaters while a motion picture is being exhibited without the consent of the theater's owner/lessee.

#### Section

#### **1 Criminal Use of Real Property.**

**Subd. 1. Definition.** Defines the terms: audiovisual recording function, convicted, and motion picture theater.

**Subd. 2. Crime.** It is a crime for a person in a motion picture theater to knowingly operate the audiovisual recording function of a device while a motion picture is being exhibited without the consent of the theater's owner/lessee. A first offense is a misdemeanor, a second offense is a gross misdemeanor, and a third or subsequent offense is a felony (statutory maximum of two years imprisonment and/or \$4,000 fine).

**Subd. 3. Detaining Suspects.** Allows an owner/lessee of the motion picture theater to detain a person suspected of violating this section in the same manner that a merchant may detain a person suspected of shoplifting.

**Subd. 4. Exception.** Provides a law enforcement exception to the crime.

**Section**

**Subd. 5. Not Preclude Alternative Prosecution.** Specifies that nothing in this section prevents prosecution under other provisions of law.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2005.