

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Read, Roblan

Nays: 0

Exc.: Nolan

Prepared By: Jerry Watson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/15, 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies theft in first degree to include theft of agricultural property valued at \$100 or more and committed on property granted farm use special assessment, under certain additional circumstances.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Theft of nonlivestock agricultural products, property damage, and trespass constitute separate, minor crimes that are under-prosecuted and therefore go undeterred
- Agricultural properties are attractive targets because, generally, neighbors are not close or numerous and not a law enforcement priority
- Agricultural properties may be targeted repeatedly because of attractiveness
- The cumulative effect of multiple crimes is thousands of dollars in collateral damage and costs for remedial measures such as security
- Fiscal impact of proposed legislation and referral to Ways and Means Committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Proponents assert that theft of agricultural property by persons who commit criminal trespass and cause property damage is a significant problem and deserves first degree treatment.