

*Shoplifting*

## 551A.

(a) *In any mercantile establishment, it is unlawful for any person*

(1) *To remove any goods, wares or merchandise from the immediate place of display or from any other place within the establishment with the intent to appropriate the same to the use of the person so taking, or to deprive the owner of the use, or value, or any part thereof; or*

(2) *To obtain or attempt to obtain possession of any goods, wares or merchandise, by charging the same to a real person without the authority of such person, or to a fictitious person, with a like intent; or,*

(3) *To conceal any such goods, wares or merchandise with a like intent; or,*

(4) *To alter, remove, or otherwise disfigure any label or price tag with a like intent; or,*

(5) *To transfer any goods, wares or merchandise from a container in which the same shall be displayed or packaged to any other container with a like intent; and any person committing any of the acts mentioned is guilty of shoplifting.*

(b) *Any person who aids or abets in the commission of any of the acts set out in sub-section (a) is guilty of shoplifting.*

(c) *Possession of any goods, wares or merchandise by any person in any mercantile establishment which*

(1) *Have been removed from the place of display or other place within the establishment and concealed on or about the person of any such person; or,*

(2) *Have any label or price tag altered by the person in whose possession they are found; or,*

(3) *Have been transferred from the container in which they were displayed or packaged to any other container; ; BY THE PERSON IN WHOSE POSSESSION THEY ARE FOUND;*

(4) *Have been obtained by charging the same to a real person without the authority of such person or to a fictitious person;*

*shall be deemed prima facie evidence of an intent, on the part of the person in whose possession they are found, to appropriate the goods, wares or merchandise to his use, and to deprive the owner of the possession, use, or the value or a part thereof.*

(d) *A peace officer, upon a charge being made, and without a warrant; may arrest any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe has committed or attempted to commit the crime of shoplifting, as heretofore defined, in any mercantile establishment.*

(e) *Reasonable cause shall be a defense to a civil or criminal action brought for false arrest, false imprisonment, or wrongful de-*