

relating to civil penalties for shoplifting and employee theft.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3-1302

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3-1302.

A responsible person is civilly liable to the merchant:

(1) To restore the merchandise to the merchant or, if the merchandise is not recoverable, has been damaged, or otherwise has lost all or part of its value, to pay the merchant an amount equal to the merchant's stated sales price for the merchandise;

(2) To pay the merchant for any other actual damages sustained by the merchant, not including the loss of time or wages incurred in connection with the apprehension or prosecution of the shoplifter or employee; and

(3) Subject to the merchant's compliance with the procedures contained in § 3-1303 of this subtitle, to pay the merchant a civil penalty equal to twice the merchant's stated sales price for the merchandise, but not less than \$50 nor more than **[\$500]** \$1,000.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to a cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2001.

May 17, 2001

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 268 - Local Property Tax Credit - County Income Tax Rate Increases.

This bill amends the provision authorizing local governments to grant a local property