

## **Crimes Involving Firearms; HB 2278**

**HB 2278** makes theft of a firearm valued at less than \$25,000 a severity level 9, nonperson felony. Previously, there was no penalty specific to theft of firearms; however, theft of property valued between \$1,000 and \$25,000 was a severity level 9, nonperson felony, and theft of property valued below \$1,000 was a class A nonperson misdemeanor. For theft of property from three separate mercantile establishments within 72 hours as part of the same act or transaction or in two or more acts or transactions connected together or constituting parts of a common scheme or course of conduct, a severity level 9, nonperson felony, the bill adds a maximum value of \$1,000 for the property.

Additionally, pursuant to the bill, criminal deprivation of a firearm becomes a severity level 9, nonperson felony. The former law had no penalty specific to criminal deprivation of a firearm; however, criminal deprivation of property other than a motor vehicle was a class A nonperson misdemeanor, and a second or subsequent conviction carried a sentence of at least 30 days imprisonment and a fine of at least \$100.

Finally, burglary with intent to commit the theft of a firearm becomes a severity level 5, nonperson felony. Formerly, burglary was either a severity level 7 or severity level 9, nonperson felony.