



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5563

LCO No. 3087



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS CRIMINAL LAW PROPOSALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53-142k of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Retail property" means any new article, product, commodity,
5 item or component intended to be sold in retail commerce;

6 (2) "Value" means the retail value of an item as advertised by the
7 affected retail establishment, including applicable taxes; and

8 (3) "Retail property fence" means a person who buys retail property
9 when such person knows or should know the property is stolen and
10 with the intent to unlawfully distribute the property or to promote,
11 manage, carry on or facilitate a violation of subsection (b) of this section.

12 (b) Any person who, for financial gain and in conjunction with one or
13 more other persons, commits larceny by shoplifting, as defined in
14 section 53a-119, as amended by this act, of retail property having an

15 aggregate value exceeding two thousand dollars and (1) wrongfully
16 takes such property during a period of [one hundred eighty] three
17 hundred sixty-five days, or (2) sells, delivers or otherwise transfers such
18 property to a retail property fence, shall have committed the offense of
19 organized retail theft.

20 (c) Any person who receives, possesses, conceals, stores, barter, sells
21 or disposes of any retail property acquired in violation of subsection (b)
22 of this section, including through the use of an online platform, Internet
23 web site or electronic device, with the intent to distribute the proceeds
24 or otherwise promote, manage, carry on or facilitate a violation of said
25 subsection, shall have committed the offense of accessory to organized
26 retail theft.

27 (d) It shall not be a defense to a charge of accessory to organized retail
28 theft in violation of subsection (c) of this section that the retail property
29 was obtained by means other than through a violation of said subsection
30 if the property was explicitly represented to the person charged under
31 said subsection (c) as being obtained through the commission of
32 organized retail theft.

33 (e) Any person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall
34 be guilty of a class D felony, except that, if such person derives a
35 financial benefit of ten thousand dollars or more as a result of such
36 violation, such person shall be guilty of a class C felony.

37 Sec. 2. Section 53a-119 of the general statutes is repealed and the
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

39 A person commits larceny when, with intent to deprive another of
40 property or to appropriate the same to [himself] such person or a third
41 person, [he] such person wrongfully takes, obtains or withholds such
42 property from an owner. Larceny includes, but is not limited to:

43 (1) Embezzlement. A person commits embezzlement when [he] such
44 person wrongfully appropriates to [himself] such person's self or to

45 another property of another in [his] such person's care or custody.

46 (2) Obtaining property by false pretenses. A person obtains property
47 by false pretenses when, by any false token, pretense or device, [he] such
48 person obtains from another any property, with intent to defraud [him]
49 such other person or any other person.

50 (3) Obtaining property by false promise. A person obtains property
51 by false promise when, pursuant to a scheme to defraud, [he] such
52 person obtains property of another by means of a representation,
53 express or implied, that [he] such person or a third person will in the
54 future engage in particular conduct, and when [he] such person does
55 not intend to engage in such conduct or does not believe that the third
56 person intends to engage in such conduct. In any prosecution for larceny
57 based upon a false promise, the defendant's intention or belief that the
58 promise would not be performed may not be established by or inferred
59 from the fact alone that such promise was not performed.

60 (4) Acquiring property lost, mislaid or delivered by mistake. A
61 person who comes into control of property of another that [he] such
62 person knows to have been lost, mislaid, or delivered under a mistake
63 as to the nature or amount of the property or the identity of the recipient
64 is guilty of larceny if, with purpose to deprive the owner thereof, [he]
65 such person fails to take reasonable measures to restore the property to
66 a person entitled to it.

67 (5) Extortion. A person obtains property by extortion when [he] an
68 actor compels or induces another person to deliver such property to
69 [himself] such actor or a third person by means of instilling in [him] the
70 other person a fear that, if the property is not so delivered, the actor or
71 another will: (A) Cause physical injury to some person in the future; or
72 (B) cause damage to property; or (C) engage in other conduct
73 constituting a crime; or (D) accuse some person of a crime or cause
74 criminal charges to be instituted against [him] such person; or (E) expose
75 a secret or publicize an asserted fact, whether true or false, tending to

76 subject some person to hatred, contempt or ridicule; or (F) cause a strike,
77 boycott or other collective labor group action injurious to some person's
78 business; except that such a threat shall not be deemed extortion when
79 the property is demanded or received for the benefit of the group in
80 whose interest the actor purports to act; or (G) testify or provide
81 information or withhold testimony or information with respect to
82 another's legal claim or defense; or (H) use or abuse [his] the actor's
83 position as a public servant by performing some act within or related to
84 [his] the actor's official duties, or by failing or refusing to perform an
85 official duty, in such manner as to affect some person adversely; or (I)
86 inflict any other harm which would not benefit the actor.

87 (6) Defrauding of public community. A person is guilty of defrauding
88 a public community who (A) authorizes, certifies, attests or files a claim
89 for benefits or reimbursement from a local, state or federal agency which
90 [he] such person knows is false; or (B) knowingly accepts the benefits
91 from a claim [he] such person knows is false; or (C) as an officer or agent
92 of any public community, with intent to prejudice it, appropriates its
93 property to the use of any person or draws any order upon its treasury
94 or presents or aids in procuring to be allowed any fraudulent claim
95 against such community. For purposes of this subdivision such order or
96 claim shall be deemed to be property.

97 (7) Theft of services. A person is guilty of theft of services when: (A)
98 With intent to avoid payment for restaurant services rendered, or for
99 services rendered to [him] such person as a transient guest at a hotel,
100 motel, inn, tourist cabin, rooming house or comparable establishment,
101 [he] such person avoids such payment by unjustifiable failure or refusal
102 to pay, by stealth, or by any misrepresentation of fact which [he] such
103 person knows to be false; or (B) (i) except as provided in section 13b-38i,
104 with intent to obtain railroad, subway, bus, air, taxi or any other public
105 transportation service without payment of the lawful charge therefor or
106 to avoid payment of the lawful charge for such transportation service
107 which has been rendered to [him, he] such person who obtains such
108 service or avoids payment therefor by force, intimidation, stealth,

109 deception or mechanical tampering, or by unjustifiable failure or refusal
110 to pay, or (ii) with intent to obtain the use of equipment, including a
111 motor vehicle, without payment of the lawful charge therefor, or to
112 avoid payment of the lawful charge for such use which has been
113 permitted [him, he] such person who obtains such use or avoids such
114 payment therefor by means of any false or fraudulent representation,
115 fraudulent concealment, false pretense or personation, trick, artifice or
116 device, including, but not limited to, a false representation as to [his]
117 such person's name, residence, employment, or driver's license; or (C)
118 obtaining or having control over labor in the employ of another person,
119 or of business, commercial or industrial equipment or facilities of
120 another person, knowing that [he] the actor is not entitled to the use
121 thereof, and with intent to derive a commercial or other substantial
122 benefit for [himself] the actor or a third person, [he] the actor uses or
123 diverts to the use of [himself] such actor or a third person such labor,
124 equipment or facilities.

125 (8) Receiving stolen property. A person is guilty of larceny by
126 receiving stolen property if [he] such person receives, retains, or
127 disposes of stolen property knowing that it has probably been stolen or
128 believing that it has probably been stolen, unless the property is
129 received, retained or disposed of with purpose to restore it to the owner.
130 A person who accepts or receives the use or benefit of a public utility
131 commodity which customarily passes through a meter, knowing such
132 commodity (A) has been diverted therefrom, (B) has not been correctly
133 registered, or (C) has not been registered at all by a meter, is guilty of
134 larceny by receiving stolen property.

135 (9) Shoplifting. A person is guilty of shoplifting who intentionally
136 takes possession of any goods, wares or merchandise offered or exposed
137 for sale by any store or other mercantile establishment with the intention
138 of converting the same to [his] such person's own use, without paying
139 the purchase price thereof. A person intentionally concealing
140 unpurchased goods or merchandise of any store or other mercantile
141 establishment, either on the premises or outside the premises of such

142 store, shall be prima facie presumed to have so concealed such article
143 with the intention of converting the same to [his] such person's own use
144 without paying the purchase price thereof.

145 (10) Conversion of a motor vehicle. A person is guilty of conversion
146 of a motor vehicle who, after renting or leasing a motor vehicle under
147 an agreement in writing which provides for the return of such vehicle
148 to a particular place at a particular time, fails to return the vehicle to
149 such place within the time specified, and who thereafter fails to return
150 such vehicle to the agreed place or to any other place of business of the
151 lessor within one hundred twenty hours after the lessor shall have sent
152 a written demand to [him] such person for the return of the vehicle by
153 registered mail addressed to [him at his] such person at such person's
154 address as shown in the written agreement or, in the absence of such
155 address, to [his] such person's last-known address as recorded in the
156 records of the motor vehicle department of the state in which [he] such
157 person is licensed to operate a motor vehicle. It shall be a complete
158 defense to any civil action arising out of or involving the arrest or
159 detention of any person to whom such demand was sent by registered
160 mail that [he] such person failed to return the vehicle to any place of
161 business of the lessor within one hundred twenty hours after the
162 mailing of such demand.

163 (11) Obtaining property through fraudulent use of an automated
164 teller machine. A person obtains property through fraudulent use of an
165 automated teller machine when such person obtains property by
166 knowingly using in a fraudulent manner an automated teller machine
167 with intent to deprive another of property or to appropriate the same to
168 [himself] such person or a third person. In any prosecution for larceny
169 based upon fraudulent use of an automated teller machine, the crime
170 shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in which the
171 machine was located. In any prosecution for larceny based upon more
172 than one instance of fraudulent use of an automated teller machine, (A)
173 all such instances in any six-month period may be combined and
174 charged as one offense, with the value of all property obtained thereby

175 being accumulated, and (B) the crime shall be deemed to have been
176 committed in any of the towns in which a machine which was
177 fraudulently used was located. For the purposes of this subsection,
178 "automated teller machine" means an unmanned device at which
179 banking transactions including, without limitation, deposits,
180 withdrawals, advances, payments and transfers may be conducted, and
181 includes, without limitation, a satellite device and point of sale terminal
182 as defined in section 36a-2.

183 (12) Library theft. A person is guilty of library theft when (A) [he]
184 such person conceals on [his person or among his] such person's self or
185 among such person's belongings a book or other archival library
186 materials, belonging to, or deposited in, a library facility with the
187 intention of removing the same from the library facility without
188 authority or without authority removes a book or other archival library
189 materials from such library facility, or (B) [he] such person mutilates a
190 book or other archival library materials belonging to, or deposited in, a
191 library facility, so as to render it unusable or reduce its value. The term
192 "book or other archival library materials" includes any book, plate,
193 picture, photograph, engraving, painting, drawing, map, manuscript,
194 document, letter, public record, microform, sound recording,
195 audiovisual material in any format, magnetic or other tape, electronic
196 data-processing record, artifact or other documentary, written or
197 printed material regardless of physical form or characteristics, or any
198 part thereof, belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of a
199 library facility. The term "library facility" includes any public library,
200 any library of an educational institution, organization or society, any
201 museum, any repository of public records and any archives.

202 (13) Conversion of leased property. (A) A person is guilty of
203 conversion of leased personal property who, with the intent of
204 converting the same to [his] such person's own use or that of a third
205 person, after renting or leasing such property under an agreement in
206 writing which provides for the return of such property to a particular
207 place at a particular time, sells, conveys, conceals or aids in concealing

208 such property or any part thereof, and who thereafter fails to return such
209 property to the agreed place or to any other place of business of the
210 lessor within one hundred ninety-two hours after the lessor shall have
211 sent a written demand to [him] such person for the return of the
212 property by registered or certified mail addressed to [him at his] such
213 person at such person's address as shown in the written agreement,
214 unless a more recent address is known to the lessor. Acknowledgment
215 of the receipt of such written demand by the lessee shall not be necessary
216 to establish that one hundred ninety-two hours have passed since such
217 written demand was sent. (B) Any person, being in possession of
218 personal property other than wearing apparel, received upon a written
219 lease, who, with intent to defraud, sells, conveys, conceals or aids in
220 concealing such property, or any part thereof, shall be prima facie
221 presumed to have done so with the intention of converting such
222 property to [his] such person's own use. (C) A person who uses a false
223 or fictitious name or address in obtaining such leased personal property
224 shall be prima facie presumed to have obtained such leased personal
225 property with the intent of converting the same to [his] such person's
226 own use or that of a third person. (D) "Leased personal property", as
227 used in this subdivision, means any personal property received
228 pursuant to a written contract, by which one owning such property, the
229 lessor, grants to another, the lessee, the right to possess, use and enjoy
230 such personal property for a specified period of time for a specified sum,
231 but does not include personal property that is rented or leased pursuant
232 to chapter 743i.

233 (14) Failure to pay prevailing rate of wages. A person is guilty of
234 failing to pay the prevailing rate of wages when [he] such person (A)
235 files a certified payroll, in accordance with section 31-53 which [he] such
236 person knows is false, in violation of section 53a-157a, and (B) fails to
237 pay to an employee or to an employee welfare fund the amount attested
238 to in the certified payroll with the intent to convert such amount to [his]
239 such person's own use or to the use of a third party.

240 (15) Theft of utility service. A person is guilty of theft of utility service

241 when [he] such person intentionally obtains electric, gas, water,
242 telecommunications, wireless radio communications or community
243 antenna television service that is available only for compensation: (A)
244 By deception or threat or by false token, slug or other means including,
245 but not limited to, electronic or mechanical device or unauthorized use
246 of a confidential identification or authorization code or through
247 fraudulent statements, to avoid payment for the service by [himself]
248 such person or another person; or (B) by tampering or making
249 connection with or disconnecting the meter, pipe, cable, conduit,
250 conductor, attachment or other equipment or by manufacturing,
251 modifying, altering, programming, reprogramming or possessing any
252 device, software or equipment or part or component thereof or by
253 disguising the identity or identification numbers of any device or
254 equipment utilized by a supplier of electric, gas, water,
255 telecommunications, wireless radio communications or community
256 antenna television service, without the consent of such supplier, in order
257 to avoid payment for the service by [himself] such person or another
258 person; or (C) with intent to avoid payment by [himself] such person or
259 another person for a prospective or already rendered service the charge
260 or compensation for which is measured by a meter or other mechanical
261 measuring device provided by the supplier of the service, by tampering
262 with such meter or device or by attempting in any manner to prevent
263 such meter or device from performing its measuring function, without
264 the consent of the supplier of the service. There shall be a rebuttable
265 presumption that the person to whom the service is billed has the intent
266 to obtain the service and to avoid making payment for the service if,
267 without the consent of the supplier of the service: (i) Any meter, pipe,
268 cable, conduit, conductor, attachment or other equipment has been
269 tampered with or connected or disconnected, (ii) any device, software
270 or equipment or part or component thereof has been modified, altered,
271 programmed, reprogrammed or possessed, (iii) the identity or
272 identification numbers of any device or equipment utilized by the
273 supplier of the service have been disguised, or (iv) a meter or other
274 mechanical measuring device provided by the supplier of the service

275 has been tampered with or prevented from performing its measuring
276 function. The presumption does not apply if the person to whose service
277 the condition applies has received such service for less than thirty-one
278 days or until the service supplier has made at least one meter or service
279 reading and provided a billing statement to the person as to whose
280 service the condition applies. The presumption does not apply with
281 respect to wireless radio communications.

282 (16) Air bag fraud. A person is guilty of air bag fraud when such
283 person, with intent to defraud another person, obtains property from
284 such other person or a third person by knowingly selling, installing or
285 reinstalling any object, including any counterfeit air bag or
286 nonfunctional air bag, as such terms are defined in section 14-106d, in
287 lieu of an air bag that was designed in accordance with federal safety
288 requirements as provided in 49 CFR 571.208, as amended, and which is
289 proper for the make, model and year of the vehicle, as part of the vehicle
290 inflatable restraint system.

291 (17) Theft of motor fuel. A person is guilty of theft of motor fuel when
292 such person (A) delivers or causes to be delivered motor fuel, as defined
293 in section 14-327a, into the fuel tank of a vehicle or into a portable
294 container, or into both, on the premises of a retail dealer, as defined in
295 section 14-318, and (B) with the intent to appropriate such motor fuel to
296 [himself] such person or a third person, leaves such premises without
297 paying the purchase price for such motor fuel.

298 (18) Failure to repay surplus Citizens' Election Fund grant funds. A
299 person is guilty of failure to repay surplus Citizens' Election Fund grant
300 funds when such person fails to return to the Citizens' Election Fund
301 any surplus funds from a grant made pursuant to sections 9-700 to 9-
302 716, inclusive, not later than ninety days after the primary or election for
303 which the grant is made.

304 (19) Fostering the sale of stolen property. A person is guilty of
305 fostering the sale of stolen property when such person hosts, advertises

306 or otherwise assists in the sale of stolen property, including through an
307 online platform, knowing or believing that such property has been
308 stolen, unless such property is received, retained or disposed of with
309 purpose to restore such property to the owner.

310 (20) Gift card crime. (A) A person is guilty of gift card crime when,
311 with intent to defraud, such person (i) acquires or retains possession of
312 a gift card or gift card redemption information without the consent of
313 the cardholder, card issuer or gift card seller, (ii) alters or tampers with
314 a gift card, or (iii) devises a scheme to obtain a gift card or gift card
315 information from a cardholder, card issuer or gift card seller by means
316 of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises. (B) For
317 purposes of this subdivision: (i) "Cardholder" means any person or
318 party (I) to whom a physical or virtual gift card is issued through a
319 purchase, or (II) who receives a gift card from a willing party; (ii) "card
320 issuer" means any person who issues a gift card or the agent of such
321 person with respect to such card; (iii) "closed-loop gift card" means a
322 card, code or device that is (I) issued to a consumer on a prepaid basis
323 in a specified amount, regardless of whether such amount may be
324 increased or reloaded in exchange for payment, and (II) redeemable for
325 goods, services or anything of value upon presentation by a consumer
326 to a single merchant or group of affiliated merchants; (iv) "gift card"
327 means a physical or digital closed-loop gift card or open-loop gift card
328 that is activated or inactivated; (v) "gift card redemption information"
329 means information unique to each gift card that allows the cardholder
330 to access, transfer or spend the funds on such gift card; (vi) "open-loop
331 gift card" means a card, code or device that is (I) issued to a consumer
332 on a prepaid basis in a specified amount, regardless of whether such
333 amount may be increased or reloaded in exchange for payment, and (II)
334 redeemable for goods, services or anything of value upon presentation
335 by a consumer to multiple unaffiliated merchants within a payment
336 card network; and (vii) "gift card seller" means a merchant who is
337 engaged in the business of selling open-loop gift cards or closed-loop
338 gift cards to consumers.

339 Sec. 3. Section 52-564a of the general statutes is repealed and the
340 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

341 (a) Any person eighteen years of age or older or an emancipated
342 minor who takes possession of goods or merchandise displayed or
343 offered for sale by any mercantile establishment, or who takes from any
344 real property any agricultural produce kept, grown or raised on the
345 property for purposes of sale, without the consent of the owner and with
346 the intention of converting such goods, merchandise or produce to [his]
347 such person's own use without having paid the purchase price thereof,
348 or who alters the price indicia of such goods or merchandise, shall be
349 liable in a civil action to the owner of the goods, merchandise or produce
350 for (1) the actual and reasonable costs of maintaining the action,
351 including court costs and a reasonable attorney's fee, (2) the retail value
352 of the goods, merchandise or produce taken, if not recovered by the time
353 of the commencement of the action or if recovered in an unmerchantable
354 condition, and (3) punitive damages in an amount not to exceed [three
355 hundred] one thousand dollars.

356 (b) A conviction of larceny by shoplifting, as defined in subdivision
357 (9) of section 53a-119, as amended by this act, shall not be a condition
358 precedent to the maintenance of a civil action under this section.

359 (c) In any action brought pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, if
360 the plaintiff does not prevail, the court may award costs and reasonable
361 attorney's fees to the defendant. [his costs, including a reasonable
362 attorney's fee, and damages not to exceed three hundred dollars.]

363 (d) No action shall be brought pursuant to subsection (a) of this
364 section but within two years from the date of the act complained of.

365 Sec. 4. Section 46b-486 of the general statutes is repealed and the
366 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

367 The Department of Public Health may release information relating to
368 an acknowledgment of parentage to (1) (A) a signatory of the

369 acknowledgment, (B) the child if such child is eighteen years of age or
 370 older, (C) a guardian of the person whose parentage is acknowledged,
 371 (D) an attorney representing a person to whom such information may
 372 be released, (E) a court, (F) a federal agency, (G) an authorized
 373 representative of the Department of Social Services, (H) the child
 374 support agency of this state, (I) any agency acting under a cooperative
 375 or purchase of service agreement with the child support agency of this
 376 state, and (J) the child support agency of another state, and (2) an
 377 authorized representative of the Department of Children and Families
 378 when such information is requested in furtherance of the department's
 379 duties or responsibilities in a matter pending the superior court for
 380 juvenile matters where parentage of the child is outstanding.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53-142k
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-119
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	52-564a
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46b-486

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) modify statutory provisions relating to the offenses of organized retail theft and accessory to organized retail theft, (2) establish fostering the sale of stolen property and gift card crime as forms of larceny, (3) modify statutory provisions relating to the civil liability of a person eighteen years of age or older or an emancipated minor who takes possession of certain goods, merchandise or produce without the consent of the owner and with a certain intention, or who alters the price indicia of such goods or merchandise, and (4) modify statutory provisions concerning to whom the Department of Public Health may release information concerning acknowledgment of parentage.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]