

SENATE BILL 729

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 11, Part 1 and Title 39, Chapter 14, Part
1, relative to theft offenses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-11-106, is amended by deleting subdivision (35) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

“Services” includes labor, skill, professional service, transportation, telephone, mail, gas, electricity, steam, water, cable television or other public services, accommodations in hotels, restaurants or elsewhere, admissions to exhibitions, use of vehicles or other movable property, and the providing of any other intangible good or product, regardless of whether it is listed in this subdivision or a specific statute exists covering the same or similar conduct; and

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

§ 39-14-153.

(a) It is an offense for a person who is applying for, or the recipient of, dwelling accommodations in any housing project operated by a housing authority as defined in § 13-20-102, to obtain or attempt to obtain such dwelling accommodations, by means of a statement, representation, or impersonation the person knows to be false, or by knowingly concealing any material fact if the false statement, representation, impersonation or concealment results in:

(1) The person qualifying for housing authority accommodations under the income qualification standards established pursuant to § 13-20-113; or

(2) The person's lease or rental payment being less than the person would otherwise be required to pay under the housing authority's income qualification standards established pursuant to § 13-20-113.

(b) A violation of this section shall be considered theft and graded as provided in § 39-14-105. In grading the offense, the amount taken shall be considered the value of the benefit the defendant derived from the offense.

SECTION 3 . This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.