

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 22

BY SENATOR HODGES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

THEFT. Creates the crime of theft of utility property. (8/1/25)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:67.24, relative to theft; to create the crime of theft of utility property; to  
3 provide relative to theft of property owned by a utility provider; to provide  
4 definitions and penalties; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:67.24 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§67.24. Theft of utility property**

8 **A. Theft of utility property is the misappropriation or taking of any**  
9 **utility property, without the consent of the owner, with the intent to deprive the**  
10 **owner permanently of whatever was taken.**

11 **B. As used in this Section:**

12 **(1) "Utility" means any person or entity providing to the public gas,**  
13 **electricity, water, sewer, telephone, radio, railway, cable and broadcast**  
14 **television, video, fiber optic, or internet services.**

15 **(2) "Utility property" means any component or material, installed or**  
16 **uninstalled, which is reasonably necessary to provide utility services, including**  
17 **but not limited to any copper, wire, pole, facility, machinery, tool, equipment,**

1 cable, insulator, switch, signal, duct, fiber optic cable, conduit, plan, work,  
 2 system, substation, transmission and distribution structure, line, lighting  
 3 fixture, generating plant, equipment, pipe, main, transformer, underground  
 4 line, gas compressor, meter, or any other building or structure or part of a  
 5 structure that a utility uses in the production or use of its services.

6 C.(1) Whoever commits the crime of theft of utility property shall be  
 7 fined not less than two thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars,  
 8 or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than two years nor more  
 9 than five years, or both.

10 (2) Whoever commits the crime of theft of utility property that  
 11 necessitates an interruption of utility service to the public in order to make  
 12 repairs or otherwise replace the stolen utility property shall be fined not less  
 13 than five thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned,  
 14 with or without hard labor, for not less than five years nor more than ten years,  
 15 or both.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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SB 22 Original	DIGEST 2025 Regular Session	Hodges
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Proposed law creates the crime of theft of utility property and makes it a crime to misappropriate or take any utility property belonging to another, without the consent of the owner, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of whatever was taken.

Proposed law provides definitions relative to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a person convicted of theft of utility property that does not necessitate an interruption of utility service to the public will be fined not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than two years nor more than five years, or both.

Proposed law provides that a person convicted of theft of utility property that necessitates an interruption of utility service to the public will be fined not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than five years nor more than 10 years, or both.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 14:67.24)