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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 403 Original

DIGEST  
2026 Regular Session

Connick

Proposed law creates the crime of unauthorized possession of copper or brass material and provides that the offense is committed when a person knowingly and intentionally possesses the material and is not:

- (1) The owner.
- (2) A public utility.
- (3) A carrier.
- (4) A telecommunications service provider.
- (5) A cable service provider.
- (6) A video service provider.
- (7) A person responsible for the construction, maintenance, service, or operation of a pipeline.
- (8) A scrap metal recycling facility.
- (9) A secondhand dealer.
- (10) A manufacturing, industrial, commercial, retail, or other business that sells copper or brass material in the ordinary course and scope of doing business.
- (11) A person who lawfully acquires copper or brass material through construction, remodeling, demolition, or salvage activities.
- (12) An agent acting in the course and scope of his authority for an authorized person.

Proposed law defines "cable service provider", "carrier", "copper or brass material", "pipeline", "public utility", "telecommunications service", and "video service provider".

Proposed law provides that an offender will be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.

Proposed law also provides that, if any of the following circumstances are present at the time of the offense, an offender will be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than five years nor more than 99 years, or both:

- (1) The copper or brass material was obtained from:
  - (a) Critical infrastructure.
  - (b) Equipment or wires that were not enclosed by any type of physical barrier but were connected or appurtenant to critical infrastructure, and the critical infrastructure or its component equipment or parts either depend on the connected appurtenant equipment or wires to properly function, or suffer an impairment or interruption of function, operation, production, or service either in whole or in part.
- (2) The offender has a prior conviction for any of the following with respect to copper or brass material:
  - (a) An offense under proposed law.
  - (b) Criminal mischief.
  - (c) Theft.
  - (d) Criminal conspiracy to commit theft or criminal mischief.
  - (e) An offense under the La. Racketeering Act.
- (3) The offender possessed a firearm during the commission of the offense.

Proposed law does not preclude prosecution under any applicable present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 14:67.8)