

HB 1756 -- COUNTERFEITING (Walton)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Special Committee on Homeland Security

This bill changes the laws regarding the counterfeiting of goods. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies that a counterfeiting offense involving less than 100 items or services valued at \$1,000 or less will be a class A misdemeanor;
- (2) Increases the penalty for a counterfeiting offense involving 100 to 1,000 items or services valued at \$1,000 to \$10,000 from a class D felony to a class C felony;
- (3) Increases the penalty for a counterfeiting offense from a class C felony to a class B felony when the person has been previously convicted two or more times, the violation involves 1,000 or more items or services valued at \$10,000 or more, or the person knowingly or recklessly causes or attempts to cause the physical injury of another person;
- (4) Makes it a class A felony when a person knowingly or recklessly causes or attempts to cause the serious physical injury or death of another person in the commission of any counterfeiting offense;
- (5) Requires the forfeiture of all counterfeited property used or sold and any property directly or indirectly obtained as the result of the counterfeiting offense;
- (6) Requires the court, at the conclusion of all criminal and civil forfeiture proceedings, to order any forfeited item to be destroyed with the written consent of the trademark owners; and
- (7) Requires any person convicted of a counterfeiting offense to pay restitution to the trademark owner and any other victim of the offense in the amount of any expenses incurred by the trademark owner in the investigation and prosecution of the offense as well as any profits realized by the person convicted of the offense.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Less than \$100,000 in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.