

By: Kolkhorst

H.B. No. 1865

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the penalties for theft of cattle, horses, exotic  
3 livestock, exotic fowl, sheep, swine, or goats.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 31.03(e), Penal Code, is amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (f), an offense under  
8 this section is:

9 (1) a Class C misdemeanor if the value of the property  
10 stolen is less than:

11 (A) \$50; or

12 (B) \$20 and the defendant obtained the property  
13 by issuing or passing a check or similar sight order in a manner  
14 described by Section 31.06;

15 (2) a Class B misdemeanor if:

16 (A) the value of the property stolen is:

17 (i) \$50 or more but less than \$500; or

18 (ii) \$20 or more but less than \$500 and the  
19 defendant obtained the property by issuing or passing a check or  
20 similar sight order in a manner described by Section 31.06; or

21 (B) the value of the property stolen is less  
22 than:

23 (i) \$50 and the defendant has previously  
24 been convicted of any grade of theft; or

1 (ii) \$20, the defendant has previously been  
2 convicted of any grade of theft, and the defendant obtained the  
3 property by issuing or passing a check or similar sight order in a  
4 manner described by Section 31.06;

5 (3) a Class A misdemeanor if the value of the property  
6 stolen is \$500 or more but less than \$1,500;

7 (4) a state jail felony if:

8 (A) the value of the property stolen is \$1,500 or  
9 more but less than \$20,000 [~~, or the property is less than 10 head of~~  
10 ~~cattle, horses, or exotic livestock or exotic fowl as defined by~~  
11 ~~Section 142.001, Agriculture Code, or any part thereof under the~~  
12 ~~value of \$20,000, or less than 100 head of sheep, swine, or goats or~~  
13 ~~any part thereof under the value of \$20,000]~~;

14 (B) regardless of value, the property is stolen  
15 from the person of another or from a human corpse or grave;

16 (C) the property stolen is a firearm, as defined  
17 by Section 46.01;

18 (D) the value of the property stolen is less than  
19 \$1,500 and the defendant has been previously convicted two or more  
20 times of any grade of theft;

21 (E) the property stolen is an official ballot or  
22 official carrier envelope for an election; or

23 (F) the value of the property stolen is less than  
24 \$20,000 and the property stolen is insulated or noninsulated wire  
25 or cable that consists of at least 50 percent:

26 (i) aluminum;

27 (ii) bronze; or

1 (iii) copper;

2 (5) a felony of the third degree if the value of the  
3 property stolen is \$20,000 or more but less than \$100,000, or the  
4 property is:

5 (A) [~~10 or more head of~~] cattle, horses, or  
6 exotic livestock or exotic fowl as defined by Section 142.001,  
7 Agriculture Code, stolen during a single transaction and having an  
8 aggregate value of less than \$100,000; or

9 (B) [~~100 or more head of~~] sheep, swine, or goats  
10 stolen during a single transaction and having an aggregate value of  
11 less than \$100,000;

12 (6) a felony of the second degree if the value of the  
13 property stolen is \$100,000 or more but less than \$200,000; or

14 (7) a felony of the first degree if the value of the  
15 property stolen is \$200,000 or more.

16 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
17 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
18 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
19 covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the  
20 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of  
21 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of  
22 this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.