

By: Burns

H.B. No. 3150

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to allowing a person suspected of committing or attempting  
3 to commit theft to complete an education program offered by a  
4 merchant.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 124.001, Civil Practice and Remedies  
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 124.001. DETENTION. (a) A person who reasonably  
9 believes that another has stolen or is attempting to steal property  
10 is privileged to detain that person in a reasonable manner and for a  
11 reasonable time to investigate ownership of the property.

12 (b) A person who is in the business of selling goods or  
13 services as a merchant is not precluded from:

14 (1) offering a person who is suspected of stealing or  
15 attempting to steal property from the merchant an opportunity to  
16 complete the merchant's education program instead of reporting the  
17 suspected offense to a law enforcement agency;

18 (2) informing the other person of the civil and  
19 criminal remedies available to the merchant and the state; and

20 (3) reducing or waiving a fee for the education  
21 program based on the other person's ability to pay.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.