

9630

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 13, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. SEPULVEDA -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law, in relation to larceny in
mercantile establishments

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 11-105 of the general obligations law, as added by
2 chapter 724 of the laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 11-105. Larceny in mercantile establishments. 1. When used in this
4 section, the term "mercantile establishment" shall mean a place or vehi-
5 cle where goods, wares or merchandise are offered for sale or a place or
6 vehicle from which deliveries of goods, wares or merchandise are made.
7 2. When used in this section, the term "larceny" is an act heretofore
8 defined or known as common law larceny by trespassory taking as defined
9 in paragraph (a) of subdivision two of section 155.05 of the penal law
10 committed against the property of a mercantile establishment.
11 2-A. WHEN USED IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM "ACTUAL SALES PRICE" SHALL
12 MEAN THE PRICE OF THE MERCHANDISE OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC AT THE
13 SPECIFIC PLACE, ON THE SPECIFIC DAY AND AT THE SPECIFIC TIME OF THE
14 ALLEGED LARCENY.
15 3. When used in this section, the term "emancipated minor" shall mean
16 a person who was over the age of sixteen at the time of the alleged
17 larceny and who was no longer a dependent of or in the custody of a
18 parent or legal guardian.
19 4. In any proceeding brought under this section the burden of proof
20 shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.
21 5. An adult or emancipated minor who commits larceny against the prop-
22 erty of a mercantile establishment shall be civilly liable to the opera-
23 tor of such establishment in an amount consisting of:
24 (a) the [retail] ACTUAL SALES price of the merchandise OFFERED FOR
25 SALE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT THE TIME OF SUCH ALLEGED LARCENY if SUCH
26 MERCHANDISE IS not recovered in merchantable condition up to an amount
27 not to exceed fifteen hundred dollars; plus

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (b) a penalty not to exceed the greater of [five] TWO times the
2 [retail] ACTUAL SALES price of the merchandise or [seventy-five] FIFTY
3 dollars; provided, however, that in no event shall such penalty exceed
4 five hundred dollars.

5 6. Parents or legal guardians of an unemancipated minor shall be
6 civilly liable for said minor who commits larceny against the property
7 of a mercantile establishment to the operator of such establishment in
8 an amount consisting of:

9 (a) the [retail] ACTUAL SALES price of the merchandise OFFERED FOR
10 SALE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT THE TIME OF SUCH ALLEGED LARCENY if SUCH
11 MERCHANDISE IS not recovered in merchantable condition up to an amount
12 not to exceed fifteen hundred dollars; plus

13 (b) a penalty not to exceed the greater of [five] TWO times the
14 [retail] ACTUAL SALES price of the merchandise or [seventy-five] FIFTY
15 dollars; provided, however, that in no event shall such penalty exceed
16 five hundred dollars.

17 7. A conviction or a plea of guilty for committing larceny is not a
18 prerequisite to the bringing of a civil suit, obtaining a judgment, or
19 collecting that judgment under this section.

20 8. The fact that an operator of a mercantile establishment may bring
21 an action against an individual as provided in this section shall not
22 limit the right of such merchant to [demand, orally or] ASK in writing,
23 that a person who is liable for damages and penalties under this section
24 remit the damages and penalties prior to the commencement of any legal
25 action.

26 9. In any action brought under subdivision six of this section, the
27 court shall consider in the interest of justice mitigating circumstances
28 that bear directly upon the actions of the parent or legal guardian in
29 supervising the unemancipated minor who committed the larceny.

30 10. An action for recovery of damages and penalties under this section
31 may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction.

32 11. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit
33 or limit any other cause of action which an operator of a mercantile
34 establishment may have against a person who unlawfully takes merchandise
35 from the mercantile establishment.

36 12. Any testimony or statements of the defendant or unemancipated
37 minor child of the defendant or any evidence derived from an attempt to
38 reach a civil settlement or from a civil proceeding brought under this
39 section shall be inadmissible in any other court proceeding relating to
40 such larceny.

41 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.