

CHAPTER 943

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

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DAMAGE

943.01 Criminal damage to property. (1)

Whoever intentionally causes damage to any physical property of another without his consent may be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

(2) Any person violating sub. (1) may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both under the following circumstances:

(a) The property damaged is a vehicle or highway as defined in s. 941.03 (2) and the damage is of a kind which is likely to cause injury to a person or further property damage; or

(b) The property damaged belongs to a public utility or common carrier and the damage is of a kind which is likely to impair the services of the public utility or common carrier; or

(c) The property damaged belongs to a person who is or was a witness as defined in s. 943.30 (3) (b) or a grand or petit juror and the damage was caused by reason of the owner's having attended or testified as a witness or by reason of any verdict or indictment assented to by him.

(3) If the total property damaged in violation of this section is reduced in value by more than \$1,000, the person may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both. For the purposes of this subsection, property is reduced in value by the amount which it would cost either to repair or replace it, whichever is less.

(4) Where more than one item of property is damaged pursuant to a single intent and design, the damage to all the property may be prosecuted as a single crime.

(5) In any case of criminal damage involving more than one act of criminal damage but prosecuted as a single crime, it is sufficient to allege generally criminal damage to property committed between certain dates. On the trial, evidence may be given of any such criminal damage committed on or between the dates alleged.

943.02 Arson of buildings; damage of property by explosives. (1) Whoever does any of the following may be imprisoned not more than 15 years:

(a) By means of fire, intentionally damages any building of another without his consent; or

(b) By means of fire, intentionally damages any building with intent to defraud an insurer of that building; or

(c) By means of explosives, intentionally damages any property of another without his consent.

(2) In this section "building of another" means a building in which a person other than the actor has a legal or equitable interest which the actor has no right to defeat or impair, even though the actor may also have a legal or equitable interest in the building. Proof that the actor recovered or attempted to recover on a policy of insurance by reason of the fire is relevant but not essential to establish his intent to defraud the insurer.

943.03 Arson of property other than building. Whoever, by means of fire, intentionally damages any property (other than a building) of another without his consent, may, if the property is of the value of \$100 or more, be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both.

943.04 Arson with intent to defraud. Whoever, by means of fire, damages any property (other than a building) with intent to defraud an insurer of that property may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both. Proof that the actor recovered or attempted to recover on a policy of insurance by reason of the fire is relevant but not essential to establish his intent to defraud the insurer.

943.05 Placing of combustible materials an attempt. Whoever places any combustible or explosive material or device in or near any property with intent to set fire to or blow up such property is guilty of an attempt to violate either s. 943.01, 943.02, 943.03 or 943.04, depending on the facts of the particular case.

943.06 Molotov cocktails. (1) As used in this section, "fire bomb" means a breakable container containing a flammable liquid with a flash point of 150 degrees Fahrenheit or less, having a wick or similar device capable of being ignited, but does not mean a device commercially manufactured primarily for the purpose of illumination.

(2) Whoever possesses, manufactures, sells, offers for sale, gives or transfers a fire bomb may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

(3) This section shall not prohibit the authorized use or possession of any such device by a member of the armed forces or by firemen or law enforcement officers.

TRESPASS

943.10 Burglary. (1) Whoever intentionally enters any of the following places without the consent of the person in lawful possession and with intent to steal or commit a felony therein may be imprisoned not more than 10 years:

- (a) Any building or dwelling; or
- (b) An enclosed railroad car; or
- (c) An enclosed portion of any ship or vessel; or
- (d) A locked enclosed cargo portion of a truck or trailer; or

(e) A room within any of the above.

(2) Whoever violates sub. (1) under any of the following circumstances may be imprisoned not more than 20 years:

- (a) While armed with a dangerous weapon; or
- (b) While unarmed, but arms himself with a dangerous weapon while still in the burglarized enclosure; or

(c) While in the burglarized enclosure opens, or attempts to open, any depository by use of an explosive; or

(d) While in the burglarized enclosure commits a battery upon a person lawfully therein.

(3) For the purpose of this section, entry into a place during the time when it is open to the general public is with consent.

Items stolen may be introduced in evidence in a prosecution for burglary since they tend to prove that entry was made with intent to steal. *Abraham v. State*, 47 W (2d) 44, 176 NW (2d) 349.

Since attempted robbery requires proof of elements in addition to those elements required to prove burglary, they are separate and distinct crimes; hence defendants' conviction and sentence for both criminal offenses arising out of the same factual transaction could not be successfully assailed. *State v. DiMaggio*, 49 W (2d) 565, 182 NW (2d) 466.

The state need not prove that the defendant knew his entry was without consent. *Hanson v. State*, 52 W (2d) 396, 190 NW (2d) 129.

The unexplained possession of recently stolen goods raises an inference that the possessor is guilty of theft and also of burglary if the goods were stolen in a burglary and calls for an explanation of how the possessor obtained the property. *Gautreaux v. State*, 52 W (2d) 489, 190 NW (2d) 542.

While the supreme court has recently held in several cases that intent to steal, one of the 3 essential elements in the crime of burglary, can be inferred when an unlawful entry is combined with other incriminating circumstances (vide *Strait v. State*, 41 W (2d) 552), it has retained the rule that intent to steal will not be inferred from breaking and entering alone. *State v. Hall*, 53 W (2d) 719, 193 NW (2d) 653.

An information is defective if it charges entry into a building with intent to steal or commit a felony, since these are different offenses. *Champlain v. State*, 53 W (2d) 751, 193 NW (2d) 868.

943.11 Entry into locked vehicle. Whoever intentionally enters the locked and enclosed portion or compartment of the vehicle of another without consent and with intent to steal therefrom may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year in county jail or both.

943.12 Possession of burglarious tools. Whoever has in his possession any device or instrumentality designed and adapted for use in breaking into any depository designed for the safekeeping of any valuables or into any building or room, with intent to use such device or instrumentality to break into a depository, building or room, and to steal therefrom, may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years or both.

943.13 Criminal trespass to land. (1) Whoever does any of the following may be fined not more than \$50 and in default of payment thereof shall be imprisoned not more than 30 days:

(a) Enters any enclosed or cultivated land of another with intent to catch or kill any birds, animals, or fish on such land or gather any products of the soil without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant to engage in any of those activities; or

(b) Enters or remains on any land of another after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain on said premises; or

(c) Hunts, shoots, fishes or gathers any product of the soil on the premises of another, or enters said premises with intent to do any of the foregoing after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to do so.

(2) A person has received notice from the owner or occupant within the meaning of this section if he has been notified personally, either orally or in writing, or if the land is posted. For land to be posted, a sign at least 11 inches square must be placed in at least 2 conspicuous places for every 40 acres to be protected. The sign must carry an appropriate notice and the name of the person giving the notice followed by the word "owner" if the person giving the notice is the holder of legal title to the land and by the word "occupant" if the person giving the notice is not the holder of legal title but is a lawful occupant of the land. Proof that appropriate signs as herein provided were erected or in existence upon the premises to be protected within 6 months prior to the event complained of shall be prima facie proof that the premises to be protected were posted as herein provided.

(3) Whoever erects on the land of another signs which are the same as or similar to those described in sub. (2) without obtaining the express consent of the lawful occupant or holder of legal title to such land may be fined not more than \$100.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a representative of a labor union from conferring with any employe provided such conference is conducted, in the living quarters of the employe and with the consent of the employe occupants.

(5) Any authorized occupant of employer-provided housing shall have the right to decide who may enter, confer and visit with him in the housing area he occupies.

History: 1971 c. 317.

943.14 Criminal trespass to dwellings. Whoever intentionally enters the dwelling of another without the consent of some person lawfully upon the premises, under circumstances tending to create or provoke a breach of the peace, may be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

MISAPPROPRIATION

943.20 Theft. (1) ACTS. Whoever does any of the following may be penalized as provided in sub. (3):

(a) Intentionally takes and carries away, uses, transfers, conceals, or retains possession of movable property of another without his consent and with intent to deprive the owner permanently of possession of such property.

(b) By virtue of his office, business or employment, or as trustee or bailee, having possession or custody of money or of a negotiable security, instrument, paper or other negotiable writing of another, intentionally uses, transfers, conceals, or retains possession of such money, security, instrument, paper or writing without the owner's consent, contrary to his authority, and with intent to convert to his own use or to the use of any other person except the owner. A refusal to deliver any money or a negotiable security, instrument, paper or other negotiable writing, which is in his possession or custody by virtue of his office, business or employment, or as trustee or bailee, upon demand of the person entitled to receive it, or as required by law, is prima facie evidence of an intent to convert to his own use within the meaning of this paragraph.

(c) Having a legal interest in movable property, intentionally and without consent, takes such property out of the possession of a pledgee or other person having a superior right of possession, with intent thereby to deprive the pledgee or other person permanently of the possession of such property.

(d) Obtains title to property of another by intentionally deceiving him with a false representation which is known to be false, made with intent to defraud, and which does defraud the person to whom it is made. "False representation" includes a promise made with intent not to perform it if it is a part of a false and fraudulent scheme.

(e) Intentionally fails to return any personal property which is in his possession or under his control by virtue of a written lease or written rental agreement, within 10 days after the lease or rental agreement has expired.

(2) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Property" means all forms of tangible property, whether real or personal, without limitation including electricity, gas and documents which represent or embody a chose in action or other intangible rights.

(b) "Movable property" is property whose physical location can be changed, without limitation including electricity and gas, documents which represent or embody intangible rights, and things growing on, affixed to or found in land.

(c) "Value" means the market value at the time of the theft or the cost to the victim of replacing the property within a reasonable time after the theft, whichever is less, but if the property stolen is a document evidencing a chose in action or other intangible right, value means either the market value of the chose in action or other right or the intrinsic value of the document, whichever is greater. If the thief gave consideration for, or had a legal interest in, the stolen property, the amount of such consideration or value of such interest shall be deducted from the total value of the property.

(d) "Property of another" includes property in which the actor is a co-owner and property of a partnership of which the actor is a member, unless the actor and the victim are husband and wife.

(3) PENALTIES. Penalties for violation of this section shall be as follows:

(a) If the value of the property does not exceed \$100, a fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

(b) If the value of the property exceeds \$100 but not \$2,500, a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both.

(c) If the value of the property exceeds \$2,500, a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 15 years or both.

(d) If the value of the property is less than \$2,500 and any of the following circumstances exist, a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both:

1. The property is a domestic animal; or
2. The property is taken from the person of another or from a corpse; or
3. The property is taken from a building which has been destroyed or left unoccupied because of physical disaster, riot, bombing or the proximity of battle; or
4. The property is taken after physical disaster, riot, bombing, or the proximity of battle has necessitated its removal from a building.

Cross Reference: Misapplication of funds by contractor

or subcontractor as theft, see 289.02 (5).

If one person takes property from the person of another and a 2nd person carries it away, the evidence may show a theft from the person under (1) (a) and (3) (d) 2, either on a theory of conspiracy or of complicity. *Hawpetoss v. State*, 52 W (2d) 71, 187 NW (2d) 823.

The crime of theft is not included in the crime of robbery. *Champlain v. State*, 53 W (2d) 751, 193 NW (2d) 868.

943.203 Dognapping and catnapping. (1) Whoever does any of the following may be penalized under sub. (2):

(a) Takes the dog or cat of another from one place to another without the owner's consent or cause such a dog or cat to be confined or carried out of this state or held for any purpose without the owner's consent.

(2) Any person violating this section may be:

(a) Fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than one year in the county jail or both.

(3) This section does not apply to county humane officers, sheriffs and their deputies, marshals or constables or other police officers or humane society agents engaged in the exercise of their official duties.

943.205 Theft of trade secrets. (1) Whoever with intent to deprive or withhold from the owner thereof the control of a trade secret, or with intent to appropriate a trade secret to his own use or the use of another not the owner, and without authority of the owner, does any of the following may be penalized as provided in sub. (3):

(a) Takes, uses, transfers, conceals, exhibits or retains possession of property of the owner representing a trade secret.

(b) Makes or causes to be made a copy of property of the owner representing a trade secret.

(c) Obtains title to property representing a trade secret or a copy of such property by intentionally deceiving the owner with a false representation which is known to be false, made with intent to defraud, and which does defraud the person to whom it is made. "False representation" includes a promise made with intent not to perform if it is a part of a false and fraudulent scheme.

(2) In this section:

(a) "Trade secret" means the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific, technical, laboratory, experimental, development or manufacturing information, equipment, tooling, machinery, design, process, procedure, formula or improvement, or any business information used or for use in the conduct of a business, which is manifestly intended by the owner not

to be available to anyone other than the owner or persons having access thereto with the owner's consent and which accords or may accord the owner a competitive advantage over other persons.

(b) "Property" includes without limitation because of enumeration any object, material, device, substance, writing, record, recording, drawing, sample, specimen, prototype, model, photograph, micro-organism, blueprint or map, or any copy thereof.

(c) "Representing" means disclosing, embodying, describing, depicting, containing, constituting, reflecting or recording.

(d) "Copy" means any facsimile, replica, photograph or other reproduction of any property and any notation, drawing or sketch made of or from any property.

(f) "Owner" includes a co-owner of the person charged and a partnership of which the person charged is a member, unless the person charged and the victim are husband and wife.

(3) Any one who violates this section may be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned for not more than 3 years or both.

(4) In a prosecution for a violation of this section it shall be no defense that the person charged returned or intended to return the property involved or that he destroyed all copies made.

(5) This section does not prevent any one from using skills and knowledge of a general nature gained while employed by the owner of a trade secret.

943.21 Fraud on hotel or restaurant keeper.

(1) Whoever does either of the following may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned in the county jail not more than 6 months or both:

(a) Having obtained any food, lodging or other service or accommodation at any hotel, motel, boarding or lodging house, or restaurant, intentionally absconds without paying for it.

(b) While a guest at any hotel, motel, boarding or lodging house, or restaurant, intentionally defrauds the keeper thereof in any transaction arising out of such relationship as guest.

(2) Under this section, prima facie evidence of an intent to defraud is shown by:

(a) The refusal of payment upon presentation when due, and the return unpaid of any bank check or order for the payment of money, given by any guest to any hotel, motel, boarding or lodging house, or restaurant, in payment of any obligation arising out of such relationship as guest. Such facts shall also be

deemed prima facie evidence of an intent to abscond without payment.

(b) The failure or refusal of any guest at a hotel, motel, boarding or lodging house, or restaurant, to pay, upon written demand, the established charge for food, lodging or other service or accommodation actually rendered.

(c) The giving of false information on a lodging registration form or the presenting of false or fictitious credentials for the purpose of obtaining lodging or credit.

(d) The drawing, endorsing, issuing or delivering to any hotel, motel, boarding or lodging house, or restaurant, of any check, draft or order for payment of money upon any bank or other depository, in payment of established charges for food, lodging or other service or accommodation, knowing at the time that there is not sufficient credit with the drawee bank or other depository for payment in full of the instrument drawn.

943.22 Use of cheating tokens. Whoever obtains the property or services of another by depositing anything which he knows is not lawful money or an authorized token in any receptacle used for the deposit of coins or tokens may be fined not more than \$50 or imprisoned not more than 60 days or both.

943.23 Operating vehicle without owner's consent. Whoever intentionally takes and drives any vehicle without the consent of the owner may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

To sustain a conviction of operating a car without the owner's consent it is not necessary that the driver be the person who actually took the car. *Edwards v. State*, 46 W (2d) 249, 174 NW (2d) 269.

943.24 Issue of worthless check. (1) Whoever issues any check or other order for the payment of money which, at the time of issuance, he intends shall not be paid is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

(2) Any of the following is prima facie evidence that the person at the time he issued the check or other order for the payment of money, intended it should not be paid:

(a) Proof that, at the time of issuance, he did not have an account with the drawee; or

(b) Proof that, at the time of issuance, he did not have sufficient funds or credit with the drawee and that he failed within 5 days after receiving notice of nonpayment or dishonor to pay the check or other order; or

(c) Proof that, when presentment was made within a reasonable time, the issuer did not have sufficient funds or credit with the drawee and he failed within 5 days after receiving notice of nonpayment or dishonor to pay the check or other order.

(3) This section does not apply to a postdated check or to a check given for a past consideration, except a pay roll check.

943.25 Transfer of encumbered property.

(1) Whoever, with intent to defraud, conveys real property which he knows is encumbered, without informing the grantee of the existence of the encumbrance may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both.

(2) Whoever, with intent to defraud, does any of the following may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 2 years or both:

(a) Conceals, removes or transfers any personal property in which he knows another has a security interest; or

(b) In violation of the security agreement, fails or refuses to pay over to the secured party the proceeds from the sale of property subject to a security interest.

(3) It is prima facie evidence of an intent to defraud within the meaning of sub. (2) (a) if a person, with knowledge that the security interest exists, removes or sells the property without either the consent of the secured party or authorization by the security agreement and fails within 72 hours after service of written demand for the return of the property either to return it or, in the event that return is not possible, to make full disclosure to the secured party of all the information he has concerning its disposition, location and possession.

(4) In this section "security interest" means an interest in property which secures payment or other performance of an obligation; "security agreement" means the agreement creating the security interest; "secured party" means the person designated in the security agreement as the person in whose favor there is a security interest or, in the case of an assignment of which the debtor has been notified, the assignee.

943.26 Removing or damaging encumbered real property. (1) Any mortgagor of real property or vendee under a land contract who, without the consent of the mortgagee or vendor, intentionally removes or damages the real property so as to substantially impair the mortgagee's or vendor's security may be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more

than 6 months or both.

(2) If the security is impaired by more than \$1,000, the mortgagor or vendee may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

943.27 Possession of records of certain usurious loans. Except as otherwise authorized by law, any person who knowingly possesses any writing representing or constituting a record of a charge of, contract for, receipt of or demand for a rate of interest or consideration exceeding \$20 upon \$100 for one year computed upon the declining principal balance of the loan, use or forbearance of money, goods or things in action or upon the loan, use or sale of credit may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 2 years or both.

943.28 Loan sharking prohibited. (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) To collect an extension of credit means to induce in any way any person to make repayment thereof.

(b) An extortionate extension of credit is any extension of credit with respect to which it is the understanding of the creditor and the debtor at the time it is made that delay in making repayment or failure to make repayment could result in the use of violence or other criminal means to cause harm to the person, reputation or property of any person.

(c) An extortionate means is any means which involves the use, or an express or implicit threat of use, of violence or other criminal means to cause harm to the person, reputation or property of any person.

(2) Whoever makes any extortionate extension of credit, or conspires to do so, if one or more of the parties to the conspiracy does an act to effect its object, may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years or both.

(3) Whoever advances money or property, whether as a gift, as a loan, as an investment, pursuant to a partnership or profit-sharing agreement, or otherwise, for the purpose of making extortionate extensions of credit, may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years or both.

(4) Whoever knowingly participates in any way in the use of any extortionate means a) to collect or attempt to collect any extension of credit, or b) to punish any person for the non-repayment thereof, may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years or both.

943.30 Threats to injure or accuse of crime. (1) Whoever, either verbally or by any written or printed communication, maliciously threatens to accuse another of any crime or offense, or to do any injury to the person, property, business, profession, calling or trade, or the profits and income of any business, profession, calling or trade of another, with intent thereby to extort money or any pecuniary advantage whatever, or with intent to compel the person so threatened to do any act against his will or omit to do any lawful act, may be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

(2) Whoever violates sub. (1) by obstructing, delaying or affecting commerce or business or the movement of any article or commodity in commerce or business by threats or extortion or attempts or conspires so to do or commits or threatens physical violence to any person or property in furtherance of a plan or purpose to do anything in violation of sub. (1) may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years or both.

(3) (a) Whoever by violating sub. (1) attempts to influence any witness in any matter, cause, action or proceeding before any court, officer or body mentioned in s. 946.31 (1), whether de facto or de jure, or any petit or grand juror, in the performance of his functions as such, or to deter any such witness from testifying, may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years or both.

(b) In this subsection "witness" means any person who has been or is expected to be summoned to testify, or who by reason of having relevant information is subject to call or likely to be called as a witness, whether or not any action or proceeding has as yet been commenced.

943.31 Threats to communicate derogatory information. Whoever threatens to communicate to anyone information, whether true or false, which would injure the reputation of the threatened person or another unless the threatened person transfers property to a person known not to be entitled to it may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

943.32 Robbery. (1) Whoever, with intent to steal, takes property from the person or presence of the owner by either of the following means may be imprisoned not more than 10 years:

(a) By using force against the person of the owner with intent thereby to overcome his physical resistance or physical power of resistance to the taking or carrying away of the property; or

(b) By threatening the imminent use of force against the person of the owner or of another who is present with intent thereby to compel the owner to acquiesce in the taking or carrying away of the property.

(2) Whoever violates sub. (1) while armed with a dangerous weapon may be imprisoned not more than 30 years.

(3) In this section "owner" means a person in possession of property whether his possession is lawful or unlawful.

Conviction of attempted armed robbery was supported by corroborated testimony of the victim who, returning from a bank with a sack full of money and about to enter his tavern, was confronted by defendant, the latter demanding the sack while trying to draw a gun which became stuck in his pocket, whereupon the proprietor ran into the tavern, it being manifest that there were unequivocal acts accompanied by the requisite intent to constitute the crime. The state was not obliged, as defendant contended, to prove that the gun used was in fact a lethal weapon. *Boyles v. State*, 46 W (2d) 473, 175 NW (2d) 277.

While a person who seeks to repossess himself of specific property which he owns, and to which he has the present right of possession, and the means he uses involves a gun or force, might not have the intention to steal, the taking of money from a debtor by force to pay a debt is robbery unless the accused can trace his ownership to specific coins and bills in the possession of the debtor. *Edwards v. State*, 49 W (2d) 105, 181 NW (2d) 383.

See note to 943.10, citing *State v. DiMaggio*, 49 W (2d) 565, 182 NW (2d) 466.

It is error not to instruct on the allegations that the defendant was armed and that he attempted to conceal his identity, but this is harmless error where the facts are uncontroverted. *Claybrooks v. State*, 50 W (2d) 79, 183 NW (2d) 139.

On a charge of armed robbery the court should instruct as to the definition of a dangerous weapon, but the error is harmless where all the evidence is to the effect that the defendant had a gun. *Claybrooks v. State*, 50 W (2d) 87, 183 NW (2d) 143.

Where the evidence is clear that the defendant was armed, the court need not submit a verdict which would allow the jury to find him guilty of unarmed robbery. *Kimmons v. State*, 51 W (2d) 266, 186 NW (2d) 308.

An information charging armed robbery is void if its fails to allege the use or threat of force to overcome the owner's resistance. *Champlain v. State*, 53 W (2d) 751, 193 NW (2d) 868.

943.34 Receiving stolen property. Whoever intentionally receives or conceals stolen property may be penalized as follows:

(1) If the value of the property does not exceed \$100, by a fine of not more than \$200 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

(2) If the value of the property exceeds \$100 but not more than \$2,500, by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both.

(3) If the value of the property exceeds \$2,500, by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 15 years or both.

943.35 Receiving property from children.

Whoever does either of the following may be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both:

(1) As a dealer in secondhand articles or junk, purchases any personal property, except old rags and waste paper, from any minor, without the written consent of his parent or guardian; or

(2) As a pawnbroker or other person who loans money and takes personal property as security therefor, receives personal property as security for a loan from any minor without the written consent of his parent or guardian.

History: 1971 c. 228.

943.37 Alteration of property identification marks. Whoever does any of the following with intent to prevent the identification of the property involved may be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both:

(1) Alters or removes any identification mark on any log or other lumber without the consent of the owner; or

(2) Alters or removes any identification mark from any receptacle used by the manufacturer of any beverage; or

(3) Alters or removes any manufacturer's identification number on personal property or possesses any personal property with knowledge that the manufacturer's identification number has been removed or altered. Possession of 2 or more similar items of personal property with the manufacturer's identification number altered or removed is prima facie evidence of knowledge of the alteration or removal and of an intent to prevent identification of the property.

943.38 Forgery. (1) Whoever with intent to defraud falsely makes or alters a writing or object of any of the following kinds so that it purports to have been made by another, or at another time, or with different provisions, or by authority of one who did not give such authority, may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years or both:

(a) A writing or object whereby legal rights or obligations are created, terminated or transferred, or any writing commonly relied upon in business or commercial transactions as evidence of debt or property rights; or

(b) A public record or a certified or authenticated copy thereof; or

(c) An official authentication or certification of a copy of a public record; or

(d) An official return or certificate entitled to be received as evidence of its contents.

(2) Whoever utters as genuine or possesses with intent to utter as false or as genuine any forged writing or object mentioned in sub. (1), knowing it to have been thus falsely made or altered, may be fined or imprisoned or both as provided in said subsection.

(3) Whoever, with intent to defraud, does any of the following may be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both:

(a) Falsely makes or alters any object so that it appears to have value because of antiquity, rarity, source or authorship which it does not possess; or possesses any such object knowing it to have been thus falsely made or altered and with intent to transfer it as original and genuine, by sale or for security purposes; or

(b) Falsely makes or alters any writing of a kind commonly relied upon for the purpose of identification or recommendation; or

(c) Without consent, places upon any merchandise an identifying label or stamp which is or purports to be that of another craftsman, tradesman, packer or manufacturer; or

(d) Falsely makes or alters a membership card purporting to be that of a fraternal, business or professional association or of a labor union; or possesses any such card knowing it to have been thus falsely made or altered and with intent to use it or cause or permit its use to deceive another; or

(e) Falsely makes or alters any writing purporting to evidence a right to transportation on any common carrier; or

(f) Falsely makes or alters a certified abstract of title to real estate.

943.39 Fraudulent writings. Whoever, with intent to injure or defraud, does any of the following may be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both:

(1) Being a director, officer, agent or employe of any corporation falsifies any record, account or other document belonging to that corporation by alteration, false entry or omission, or makes, circulates or publishes any written statement regarding the corporation which he knows is false; or

(2) By means of deceit obtains a signature to a writing which is the subject of forgery under s. 943.38 (1); or

(3) Makes a false written statement with knowledge that it is false and with intent that it shall ultimately appear to have been signed under oath.

943.395 Fraudulent insurance and employe benefit program claims. Whoever, knowing it to be false or fraudulent, does any of the following shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisoned in the county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than one year or both:

(1) Presents or causes to be presented a false or fraudulent claim, or any proof in support of such claim, to be paid under any contract or certificate of insurance; or

(2) Prepares, makes or subscribes to a false or fraudulent account, certificate, affidavit, proof of loss or other document or writing, with knowledge that the same may be presented or used in support of a claim for payment under a policy of insurance.

(3) Presents or causes to be presented a false or fraudulent claim or benefit application, or any false or fraudulent proof in support of such a claim or benefit application, to be paid under any employe benefit program created by ch. 40, 41 or 42.

History: 1971 c. 214.

943.40 Fraudulent destruction of certain writings. Whoever with intent to defraud does either of the following may be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both:

(1) Destroys or mutilates any corporate books of account or records; or

(2) Completely erases, obliterates or destroys any writing which is the subject of forgery under s. 943.38 (1) (a).

943.41 Fraudulent use of credit cards.

(1) Whoever obtains or attempts to obtain property or services on credit by any of the following means may, if the value of the property or services does not exceed \$100, be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both, or if the value of the property or services exceeds \$100 in a single transaction or in separate transactions within a period not exceeding 6 months, be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned in the county jail not more than one year or both:

(a) Uses a credit card which was issued to another, without his consent.

(b) Uses a credit card knowing that it has been revoked or canceled.

(c) Uses a credit card knowing that it has been falsely made or altered in any material respect.

(d) Uses the pretended number or description of a fictitious credit card.

(e) With intent to defraud, uses a credit card which has expired.

(2) In this section "credit card" means any device issued by a business organization or association of business organizations, or any club, authorizing the holder to obtain property or services on credit. It includes the number or description of any such device when the device itself is not produced at the time of obtaining credit.

(3) For purposes of this section a credit card may be revoked or canceled by notice given orally in person or by telephone, or in writing by mail or telegram. In the absence of proof of earlier delivery, such notice directed to the holder at the address given on his card or his last known address, bearing the return address of the sender, and deposited in the United States mail with sufficient postage attached, is presumed to have been received on the second day after mailing, or, if filed in the office of a telegraph company serving such address, is presumed to have been received on the day following such filing, unless, in either case, the sender has been notified of nondelivery.

943.45 Obtaining telecommunications service by fraud. (1) Whoever with intent to defraud obtains or attempts to obtain telecommunications service by any of the following means may be penalized as provided in sub. (3):

(a) Charging such service to an existing telephone number or credit card number without the consent of the subscriber thereto or the legitimate holder thereof.

(b) Charging such service to a false, fictitious, suspended, terminated, expired, canceled or revoked telephone number or credit card number.

(c) Rearranging, tampering with or making connection with any facilities or equipment.

(d) Using a code, prearranged scheme, or other stratagem or device whereby said person in effect sends or receives information.

(e) Using any other contrivance, device or means to avoid payment of the lawful charges, in whole or in part, for such service.

(2) This section shall apply when the said telecommunications service either originates or terminates, or both, in this state, or when the charges for said telecommunications service would have been billable, in normal course, by a person providing telecommunications service

in this state, but for the fact that said service was obtained, or attempted to be obtained, by one or more of the means set forth in sub. (1).

(3) Penalties for violation of this section are as follows:

(a) If the charges for the service obtained, or attempted to be obtained, do not exceed \$100, a fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

(b) If the charges for the service obtained, or attempted to be obtained, exceed \$100, a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year or both.

(4) When there has been more than one unlawful obtaining, or attempt to obtain, by an offender, the aggregate of the charges for the telecommunications service unlawfully obtained, or attempted to be obtained, shall determine the grade of the offense.

943.50 Shoplifting. (1) Whoever intentionally alters indicia of price or value of merchandise or who takes and carries away, transfers, conceals or retains possession of merchandise held for resale by a merchant without his consent and with intent to deprive the merchant permanently of possession, or the full purchase price, of such merchandise may be penalized as provided in sub. (4).

(2) The intentional concealment of unpurchased merchandise which continues from one floor to another or beyond the last station for receiving payments in a merchant's store is evidence of intent to deprive the merchant permanently of possession of such merchandise without paying the purchase price thereof. The discovery of unpurchased merchandise concealed

upon the person or among the belongings of such person or concealed by a person upon the person or among the belongings of another is evidence of intentional concealment on the part of the person so concealing such goods.

(3) A merchant or merchant's adult employe who has probable cause for believing that a person has violated this section in his presence may detain such person in a reasonable manner for a reasonable length of time to deliver him to a peace officer, or to his parent or guardian in the case of a minor. The detained person must be promptly informed of the purpose for the detention and be permitted to make phone calls, but he shall not be interrogated or searched against his will before the arrival of a peace officer who may conduct a lawful interrogation of the accused person. Compliance with this subsection entitles the merchant or his employe effecting the detention to the same defense in any action as is available to a peace officer making an arrest in the line of duty.

(4) Penalties for violation of this section are:

(a) If the value of the merchandise does not exceed \$100, a fine of not more than \$200 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

(b) If the value of the merchandise exceeds \$100 but not \$2,500, a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both.

(c) If the value of the merchandise exceeds \$2,500, a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 15 years or both.