

ASSEMBLY, No. 540

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman CRECCO

1 AN ACT upgrading the offense of criminal mischief in certain instances
2 and amending N.J.S.2C:17-3.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. N.J.S.2C:17-3 is amended to read as follows:

8 2C:17-3. Criminal mischief a. Offense defined. A person is guilty
9 of criminal mischief if he:

10 (1) Purposely or knowingly damages tangible property of another
11 or damages tangible property of another recklessly or negligently in
12 the employment of fire, explosives or other dangerous means listed in
13 section 2C:17-2a; or

14 (2) Purposely or recklessly tampers with tangible property of
15 another so as to endanger person or property.

16 b. Grading. Criminal mischief is a crime of the third degree if the
17 actor purposely causes pecuniary loss of \$2,000.00 or more, or a
18 substantial interruption or impairment of public communication,
19 transportation (including, but not limited to, the defacement, injury or
20 removal of an official traffic sign or signal), supply of water, gas or
21 power, or other public service. **[It] Otherwise, it** is a crime of the
22 fourth degree**[if the actor causes pecuniary loss in excess of \$500.00**
23 **but less than \$2,000.00, or a disorderly persons offense if he causes**
24 **pecuniary loss of \$500.00 or less].**

25 (cf: P.L.1991, c.336, s.1)

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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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31 At present, an act of criminal mischief resulting in a pecuniary loss
32 of more than \$500 but less than \$2,000 is punishable as a crime of the

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 fourth degree. Causing a loss of less than \$500 is punishable as a
2 disorderly persons offense. This bill provides that causing any
3 pecuniary loss up to \$2,000 is punishable as a fourth degree offense.

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8 Upgrades criminal mischief to crime of the fourth degree.