

**Representative Matt MacPherson** proposes the following substitute bill:

**ECONOMIC INTERRUPTION AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Matt MacPherson**

Senate Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the economic interruption of a business or governmental entity due to property damage or theft.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates a crime for property damage resulting in economic interruption of a business or governmental entity;
- ▶ creates a sentencing enhancement for property damage resulting in economic interruption of a business or governmental entity when the defendant has previous convictions of that same offense;
- ▶ creates a crime for theft resulting in economic interruption of a business or governmental entity; and
- ▶ creates a sentencing enhancement for theft resulting in economic interruption of a business or governmental entity when the defendant has previous convictions of that same offense.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None



26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 None

28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 ENACTS:

30 [76-6-113](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

31 [76-6-414](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953



33 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

34 Section 1. Section **76-6-113** is enacted to read:

35 **76-6-113. Property damage resulting in economic interruption -- Enhanced**  
36 **penalties.**

37 (1) (a) As used in this section:

38 (i) "Business" means an enterprise carried on for the purpose of gain or economic  
39 profit.

40 (ii) "Governmental entity" means the state, a county, a municipality, a special district, a  
41 special service district, a school district, a state institution of higher education, or any other  
42 political subdivision or administrative unit of the state.

43 (iii) "Economic interruption" means any disruption or cessation to the operations of a  
44 business or governmental entity that results in:

45 (A) the business or governmental entity ceasing operations for at least one day; or

46 (B) the employees of the business or governmental entity being unable to perform labor  
47 for the business or governmental entity for at least one day.

48 (b) Terms defined in Sections [76-1-101.5](#) and [76-6-101](#) apply to this section.

49 (2) An actor commits property damage resulting in economic interruption if:

50 (a) the actor damages, defaces, or destroys a business's or governmental entity's  
51 property; and

52 (b) the actor's actions under Subsection (2)(a) cause an economic interruption for the  
53 business or governmental entity.

54 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class A misdemeanor.

55 (4) It is not a defense under this section that:

56 (a) the actor committing the offense did not intend to cause economic interruption to

57 the business or governmental entity; or

58 (b) the actor did not know that the victim is a business or governmental entity.

59 (5) If the trier of facts finds that the actor committed a violation of Subsection (2), the  
60 actor is guilty of:

61 (a) a third degree felony if the actor has two prior convictions for a violation of  
62 Subsection (2) within five years before the day on which the actor committed the most recent  
63 violation of Subsection (2); and

64 (b) a second degree felony if the actor has at least three prior convictions for a violation  
65 of Subsection (2) within five years before the day on which the actor committed the most  
66 recent violation of Subsection (2).

67 (6) A prior conviction used for a penalty enhancement under Subsection (5) is a  
68 conviction that is from a separate criminal episode than:

69 (a) the most recent violation of Subsection (2); and

70 (b) any other prior conviction that is used to enhance the penalty for the most recent  
71 violation of Subsection (2).

72 (7) The prosecuting attorney, or the grand jury if an indictment is returned, shall  
73 include notice in the information or indictment that the offense is subject to an enhancement  
74 under Subsection (5).

75 Section 2. Section **76-6-414** is enacted to read:

76 **76-6-414. Theft resulting in economic interruption -- Enhanced penalties.**

77 (1) (a) As used in this section:

78 (i) "Business" means the same as that term is defined in Section [76-6-113](#).

79 (ii) "Governmental entity" means the same as that term is defined in Section [76-6-113](#).

80 (iii) "Economic interruption" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
81 [76-6-113](#).

82 (b) Terms defined in Sections [76-1-101.5](#) and [76-6-401](#) apply to this section.

83 (2) An actor commits theft resulting in economic interruption if:

84 (a) the actor obtains or exercises unauthorized control over a business's or  
85 governmental entity's property with the intent to deprive the business or governmental entity of  
86 the property; and

87 (b) the actor's actions under Subsection (2)(a) cause an economic interruption for the

88 business or governmental entity.

89 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class A misdemeanor.

90 (4) It is not a defense under this section that:

91 (a) the actor committing the offense did not intend for the business or governmental

92 entity to incur the cost of the economic interruption; or

93 (b) the actor did not know that the victim is a business or governmental entity.

94 (5) If the trier of facts finds that the actor committed a violation of Subsection (2), the  
95 actor is guilty of:

96 (a) a third degree felony if the actor has two prior convictions for a violation of  
97 Subsection (2) within five years before the day on which the actor committed the most recent  
98 violation of Subsection (2); and

99 (b) a second degree felony if the actor has at least three prior convictions for a violation  
100 of Subsection (2) within five years before the day on which the actor committed the most  
101 recent violation of Subsection (2).

102 (6) A prior conviction used for a penalty enhancement under Subsection (5) is a  
103 conviction that is from a separate criminal episode than:

104 (a) the most recent violation of Subsection (2); and

105 (b) any other prior conviction that is used to enhance the penalty for the most recent  
106 violation of Subsection (2).

107 (7) The prosecuting attorney, or the grand jury if an indictment is returned, shall  
108 include notice in the information or indictment that the offense is subject to an enhancement  
109 under Subsection (5).

110 **Section 3. Effective date.**

111 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.