

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7107

AN ACT CONCERNING THE THEFT OF WASTE VEGETABLE OIL OR ANIMAL

Title: FATS.

Vote Date: 3/20/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/15/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Representative Zawistowski brought this issue to the attention of the Judiciary Committee. A company in Connecticut estimated they lost over a million dollars because of used cooking oil theft, which hurts the local economy. Used cooking oil theft is increasing throughout the state due to the increase in demand for used cooking oil as feedstock. The bill makes the theft of waste vegetable oil or animal fats, larceny in the fourth degree. To further deter this type of theft, the penalty for stealing waste vegetable oil or animal fats would increase under this bill.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The addition in lines 4 and 5 adds the specification of the larceny relating to when the theft "consists of waste vegetable oil or animals fats". Lines 7-12 were also added to define what waste vegetable oil and animal fats are. Section (b), which had previously defined the class of the crime fourth degree larceny, was moved to Section (c).

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Western Mass. Rendering Company, Co-Owner Terrence Plakias: testified that used cooking oil (UCO) theft is an increasingly large problem and has a major effect on businesses that distribute UCO. Mr. Plakias suggests making UCO theft a specific crime and increasing

penalties for committing UCO theft. Mr. Plakias also testified about the repercussions of theft of Yellow Grease, which is important in the making of items like soap, shampoo, cattle-feed, and biodiesel. He also said that “our company alone recorded nearly 2,000 known/suspected theft incidents in the state of Connecticut”.

National Renders Association, Senior Vice President, David L. Meeker: Supports bill because UCO theft is increasing and the bill would “make UCO theft a more complicated and risky endeavor”.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Logan Durant

Date: March 21, 2019