



SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Sec. 19.5: Critical Infrastructure Theft

2025-2026 General Assembly

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Sec. 19.5

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Prepared by: Legislative Analysis
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Section 19.5 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) increases the punishment for willfully and wantonly cutting, mutilating, defacing, or otherwise injuring personal or real property of another, or attempting to do so, in a manner that damages any critical infrastructure to a Class C felony and requires mandatory restitution for that offense.

This section also creates a new offense for unlawfully possessing nonferrous metals used, or intended to be used, in the provision of critical infrastructure, knowing the materials were unlawfully obtained. A first offense is a Class 1 misdemeanor, and a second or subsequent offense is a Class H felony.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2026, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

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