

# SENATE BILL No. 1516

September 28, 2010, Introduced by Senators RICHARDVILLE, HUNTER and WHITMER and referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions.

A bill to amend 1931 PA 328, entitled  
"The Michigan penal code,"  
by amending section 218 (MCL 750.218), as amended by 2004 PA 154.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 218. (1) A person who, with the intent to defraud or  
2 cheat makes or uses a false pretense to do 1 or more of the  
3 following is guilty of a crime punishable as provided in this  
4 section:

5           (a) Cause a person to grant, convey, assign, demise, lease, or  
6 mortgage land or an interest in land.

7           (b) Obtain a person's signature on a forged written  
8 instrument.

9           (c) Obtain from a person any money or personal property or the

1 use of any instrument, facility, article, or other valuable thing  
2 or service.

3 (d) By means of a false weight or measure obtain a larger  
4 amount or quantity of property than was bargained for.

5 (e) By means of a false weight or measure sell or dispose of a  
6 smaller amount or quantity of property than was bargained for.

7 (2) If the land, interest in land, money, personal property,  
8 use of the instrument, facility, article, or valuable thing,  
9 service, larger amount obtained, or smaller amount sold or disposed  
10 of has a value of less than \$200.00, the person is guilty of a  
11 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or  
12 a fine of not more than \$500.00 or 3 times the value, whichever is  
13 greater, or both imprisonment and a fine.

14 (3) If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a  
15 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or  
16 a fine of not more than \$2,000.00 or 3 times the value, whichever  
17 is greater, or both imprisonment and a fine:

18 (a) The land, interest in land, money, personal property, use  
19 of the instrument, facility, article, or valuable thing, service,  
20 larger amount obtained, or smaller amount sold or disposed of has a  
21 value of \$200.00 or more but less than \$1,000.00.

22 (b) The person violates subsection (2) and has 1 or more prior  
23 convictions for committing or attempting to commit an offense under  
24 this section or a local ordinance substantially corresponding to  
25 this section.

26 (4) If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a  
27 felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a

1 fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or 3 times the value, whichever is  
2 greater, or both imprisonment and a fine:

3 (a) The land, interest in land, money, personal property, use  
4 of the instrument, facility, article, or valuable thing, service,  
5 larger amount obtained, or smaller amount sold or disposed of has a  
6 value of \$1,000.00 or more but less than \$20,000.00.

7 (b) The person violates subsection (3)(a) and has 1 or more  
8 prior convictions for committing or attempting to commit an offense  
9 under this section. For purposes of this subdivision, however, a  
10 prior conviction does not include a conviction for a violation or  
11 attempted violation of subsection (2) or (3)(b).

12 (5) If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a  
13 felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than ~~10~~15 years or  
14 a fine of not more than \$15,000.00 or 3 times the value, whichever  
15 is greater, or both imprisonment and a fine:

16 (a) The land, interest in land, money, personal property, use  
17 of the instrument, facility, article, or valuable thing, service,  
18 larger amount obtained, or smaller amount sold or disposed of has a  
19 value of \$20,000.00 or more **BUT LESS THAN \$50,000.00.**

20 (b) The person violates subsection (4)(a) and has 2 or more  
21 prior convictions for committing or attempting to commit an offense  
22 under this section. For purposes of this subdivision, however, a  
23 prior conviction does not include a conviction for a violation or  
24 attempted violation of subsection (2) or (3)(b).

25 **(6) IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY, THE PERSON IS GUILTY OF A**  
26 **FELONY PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 15 YEARS OR A**  
27 **FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$25,000.00 OR 3 TIMES THE VALUE, WHICHEVER IS**

1 GREATER, OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE:

2 (A) THE LAND, INTEREST IN LAND, MONEY, PERSONAL PROPERTY, USE  
3 OF THE INSTRUMENT, FACILITY, ARTICLE, OR VALUABLE THING, SERVICE,  
4 LARGER AMOUNT OBTAINED, OR SMALLER AMOUNT SOLD OR DISPOSED OF HAS A  
5 VALUE OF \$50,000.00 OR MORE BUT LESS THAN \$100,000.00.

6 (B) THE PERSON VIOLATES SUBSECTION (5) (A) AND HAS 2 OR MORE  
7 PRIOR CONVICTIONS FOR COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT AN OFFENSE  
8 UNDER THIS SECTION. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, HOWEVER, A  
9 PRIOR CONVICTION DOES NOT INCLUDE A CONVICTION FOR A VIOLATION OR  
10 ATTEMPTED VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (2) OR (3) (B).

11 (7) IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY, THE PERSON IS GUILTY OF A  
12 FELONY PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 20 YEARS OR A  
13 FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$35,000.00 OR 3 TIMES THE VALUE, WHICHEVER IS  
14 GREATER, OR BOTH IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE:

15 (A) THE LAND, INTEREST IN LAND, MONEY, PERSONAL PROPERTY, USE  
16 OF THE INSTRUMENT, FACILITY, ARTICLE, OR VALUABLE THING, SERVICE,  
17 LARGER AMOUNT OBTAINED, OR SMALLER AMOUNT SOLD OR DISPOSED OF HAS A  
18 VALUE OF \$100,000.00 OR MORE.

19 (B) THE PERSON VIOLATES SUBSECTION (6) (A) AND HAS 2 OR MORE  
20 PRIOR CONVICTIONS FOR COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT AN OFFENSE  
21 UNDER THIS SECTION. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, HOWEVER, A  
22 PRIOR CONVICTION DOES NOT INCLUDE A CONVICTION FOR A VIOLATION OR  
23 ATTEMPTED VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (2) OR (3) (B).

24 (8) ~~(6)~~—The values of land, interest in land, money, personal  
25 property, use of the instrument, facility, article, or valuable  
26 thing, service, larger amount obtained, or smaller amount sold or  
27 disposed of in separate incidents pursuant to a scheme or course of

1 conduct within any 12-month period may be aggregated to determine  
2 the total value involved in the violation of this section.

3 (9) ~~(7)~~—If the prosecuting attorney intends to seek an  
4 enhanced sentence based upon the defendant having 1 or more prior  
5 convictions, the prosecuting attorney shall include on the  
6 complaint and information a statement listing the prior conviction  
7 or convictions. The existence of the defendant's prior conviction  
8 or convictions shall be determined by the court, without a jury, at  
9 sentencing or at a separate hearing for that purpose before  
10 sentencing. The existence of a prior conviction may be established  
11 by any evidence relevant for that purpose, including, but not  
12 limited to, 1 or more of the following:

- 13 (a) A copy of the judgment of conviction.
- 14 (b) A transcript of a prior trial, plea-taking, or sentencing.
- 15 (c) Information contained in a presentence report.
- 16 (d) The defendant's statement.

17 (10) ~~(8)~~—If the sentence for a conviction under this section  
18 is enhanced by 1 or more prior convictions, those prior convictions  
19 shall not be used to further enhance the sentence for the  
20 conviction ~~pursuant to~~ **UNDER** section 10, 11, or 12 of chapter IX of  
21 the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 769.10, 769.11,  
22 and 769.12.

23 (11) ~~(9)~~—As used in this section, "false pretense" includes,  
24 but is not limited to, a false or fraudulent representation,  
25 writing, communication, statement, or message, communicated by any  
26 means to another person, that the maker of the representation,  
27 writing, communication, statement, or message knows is false or

1 fraudulent. The false pretense may be a representation regarding a  
2 past or existing fact or circumstance or a representation regarding  
3 the intention to perform a future event or to have a future event  
4 performed.