



ENACTMENT NEWS

House Bill 66 **Theft Victims - Restitution** Effective October 1, 2020

On October 1, 2020, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 66 (Rep. Merrin) into law. The bill contained an emergency clause, making it effective upon the Governor's signature.

The bill includes the cost of any accounting or auditing done to determine the extent of any loss incurred by a victim as a result of a criminal offender's conduct in the definition of "economic loss," for purposes of calculating restitution. If a court includes the auditing or accounting costs in the restitution order, that amount must be reasonable and cannot exceed the value of the property or services that were stolen or damaged as a result of the criminal offense.

The Ohio House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 89-3 on April 11, 2019, and the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 32-0 on September 23, 2020.