

I care about businesses and want to protect businesses...I have your back while you protect your business.

The STOP CRIME ACT

strengthens protections for law-abiding Minnesotans by shielding

citizens,

business owners,

and good Samaritans

who defend

themselves, others, or property from civil lawsuits,

while blocking criminals and their families from suing if injuries occur during the committing of any crime.

The bill allows reasonable escalation of defensive force with no duty to retreat, and shifts accountability back onto criminals by allowing victims and businesses to sue criminals for medical costs,

lost wages,

property damage,

lost business income,

and emotional distress.

Simply put, it ensures criminals face consequences—and good people are protected.

Ross Nova Shooting forward, brighter, bolder in standing next to business owners against criminals....for a better tomorrow6b

STOP CRIME ACT

Stronger Tools for Owners and People – Criminal Responsibility, Immunity, and Mandatory Enforcement Act

Section 1. Short Title

This Act shall be known as the **STOP CRIME ACT** (Stronger Tools for Owners and People – Criminal Responsibility, Immunity, and Mandatory Enforcement Act).

Section 2. Legislative Findings and Purpose

The Legislature finds that:

1. Law-abiding citizens and business owners deserve strong legal protections when confronted with criminal activity.
2. Criminals and those actively engaged in crimes should not be permitted to profit from their own unlawful conduct.
3. Frivolous and retaliatory lawsuits against victims, property owners, and good Samaritans undermine public safety and justice.

Purpose: To deter criminal activity, limit abusive civil litigation arising from criminal acts, strengthen protections for victims and business owners, and ensure accountability for offenders.

Section 3. Definitions

For purposes of this Act:

- **"Criminal Actor"** means any person who is committing, attempting to commit, or fleeing from a felony or misdemeanor offense.
- **"Victim"** means a person or business harmed or threatened by a criminal actor.
- **"Good Samaritan"** means any individual who reasonably intervenes to prevent a crime, stop a criminal actor, or provide assistance during or immediately after a criminal act.
- **"Serious Bodily Injury"** has the meaning provided under Minnesota Statutes.

Section 4. Waiver of Civil Claims by Criminal Actors

1. A criminal actor who is injured or harmed while committing, attempting to commit, or fleeing from a crime shall **waive all rights to bring civil lawsuits** against: a. The victim; b. The property owner; c. A good Samaritan; or d. Any person acting in lawful self-defense or defense of others.
2. This waiver applies regardless of the severity of the injury, including permanent disability or death, except in cases of proven intentional torture or conduct that is clearly unrelated to stopping or preventing the crime.

Section 5. Limitation on Family Member Lawsuits

1. Family members, heirs, or representatives of a criminal actor shall not bring civil actions for injuries or death arising from the criminal actor's participation in a crime.
2. This prohibition applies whether or not criminal charges result in conviction, provided probable cause existed that the individual was engaged in criminal activity.

Section 6. Firearm-Related Incidents

1. If a criminal actor is shot or otherwise injured while committing or attempting to commit a armed crime, neither the criminal actor nor their family may bring a civil lawsuit if the actor is later found guilty.
2. Civil actions may not proceed until the underlying criminal case is fully resolved.

Section 7. Stay of Civil Proceedings

1. No civil lawsuit may be filed by a criminal actor or their family related to an incident until: a. All criminal proceedings are completed; and b. The defendant is found not guilty or charges are dismissed.
2. A conviction permanently bars such civil claims.

Section 8. Damages Based on Verifiable Income

1. Any permitted civil damages shall be calculated solely on: a. Documented annual income at the time of the incident; b. Multiplied by remaining years until standard retirement age.
 2. No damages may be awarded for emotional distress, pain and suffering, or speculative future earnings.
 3. No inflation adjustments shall be applied.
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Section 9. Minors and Unemployed Individuals

1. For individuals age 17 and under with no employment history: a. Damages shall be based on Minnesota's minimum livable wage.
 2. For individuals age 18–24 who are unemployed or enrolled in school or college: a. Damages shall be based on average entry-level wages for the field of study or minimum livable wage, whichever is highest^{5v}
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Section 10. Business and Property Owner Immunity and Proportional Defensive Force

1. A business or property owner who reasonably uses force to stop or prevent a crime on their premises shall be immune from civil liability.
 2. This includes actions taken to protect employees, customers, lawful occupants, property, inventory, or products.
 3. A person acting in lawful self-defense or defense of others may escalate defensive force in proportion to the threat, including but not limited to: a. If a criminal actor uses fists or physical force, the defender may use physical force or an impact weapon (such as a baton or bat); b. If a criminal actor uses or displays a knife or other deadly weapon, the defender may use a firearm or other deadly force; c. If a criminal actor attempts forcible entry, robbery, carjacking, or assault, the defender may use any level of force reasonably necessary to stop the threat.
 4. No duty to retreat shall be imposed on a person lawfully present at the location.
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Section 12A. Civil Cause of Action for Victims and Property Owners

1. Any victim, business owner, property owner, employee, customer, or good Samaritan injured by a criminal actor may bring a civil action against the criminal actor.
 2. Recoverable damages may include: a. Medical expenses and rehabilitation costs; b. Lost wages and loss of future earning capacity; c. Property damage or destruction; d. Loss of business income, interruption, or closure; e. Emotional distress and mental anguish; f. Court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.
 3. A criminal conviction shall create a rebuttable presumption of liability in any related civil action.
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Section 11. Expanded Good Samaritan Protections

1. Good Samaritans acting in reasonable belief to prevent a crime or protect others shall not be subject to civil liability.
 2. This immunity applies even if the criminal actor is injured or killed.
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Section 12. Anti-Fraud and Abuse Safeguards

1. Any person filing a false claim or misrepresenting facts in violation of this Act shall be subject to felony penalties.
 2. Courts may dismiss frivolous or bad-faith lawsuits with prejudice.
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Section 13. Preservation of Constitutional Rights

Nothing in this Act limits:

1. The right to legal counsel;
 2. The right to a fair criminal trial;
 3. The right to bring civil claims for injuries unrelated to criminal activity.
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Section 14. Severability

If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the remainder shall remain in effect.

Section 15. Effective Date

This Act shall take effect January 1 following enactment.