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## **H 8177, RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS**

Presently, people charged with littering offenses face fines from \$85 to \$500 for a first offense, and from \$300 to \$500 for a subsequent offense. This bill would raise the maximum penalties to \$1,000 for the first offense and \$5,000 for a subsequent offense.

While the ACLU strongly supports judicial discretion in sentencing, the difference between an \$85 fine and a \$1,000 fine is rather huge, as is the \$300 to \$5,000 range for subsequent offenses. Without denigrating the state's interest in preventing litter, an offender should not go to court for this type of relatively minor offense and face the prospect of not knowing whether he will be leaving the courthouse with an \$85 debt or a \$1,000 debt. We therefore oppose this legislation.