AN ACT relating to criminal damage to rental property.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 512 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Residential rental property" means any residential premises leased or otherwise rented to tenants solely for residential purposes;

(b) "Tenant" means a person entitled under a lease or rental agreement to occupy a dwelling unit to the exclusion of others; and

(c) "Lease or rental agreement" means all agreements, written or oral, embodying the terms and conditions concerning the use and occupancy of a dwelling unit and premises.

(2) A tenant who, having no right to do so or any reasonable ground to believe that he or she has such right, intentionally or wantonly defaces, destroys, or damages residential rental property shall be charged with violating KRS 512.020, 512.030, or 512.040 as appropriate to the pecuniary loss.