



April 3, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Resellers and Fencing of Stolen Property Legislation

Dear Assemblymember McCarty and Senator Wahab,

One of the League of California Cities' (Cal Cities) top advocacy priorities is to address crime and retail theft, organized retail theft and shoplifting. Our organization is pleased that the Assembly and Senate Public Safety Committees will be hearing a slate of bills to address the growing problem of retail theft in our state. As such, Cal Cities would like to identify a few bills that we believe would help to address the issue of reselling and fencing of stolen property acquired through theft.

As you may know, retail theft continues to be a problem in all California communities. For example, commercial burglary is at the highest rate since 2008. In fact, according to the PPIC, commercial burglary increased statewide since 2020, especially in larger counties with an increase of 13% among 14 of the 15 largest counties. Rising theft is impacting every corner of California, and city officials need additional tools to reduce crime and improve the safety of their neighborhoods.

The rising rate of theft offenses such as commercial burglary necessitate viable resale operations of those stolen goods such as fencing location or the use of online third-party marketplaces. Reducing the ease with which stolen items can be resold through these secondary operations is a critical step in providing any comprehensive solution to the issue of retail theft. SB 301 (Skinner, 2023) attempted to address this issue by requiring reporting by high-volume third-party sellers utilizing online marketplaces. However, there were some gaps noted in this legislation and the federal legislation that still need to be addressed.

Therefore, we support the following bills:

AB 1845 (Alanis) Crimes: Grant Program for Identifying, Apprehending, and Prosecuting Resale of Stolen Property
(As Amended on 2/21/2024)



SB 1144 (Skinner) Marketplaces: Online Marketplaces
(As Amended on 3/19/2024)

SB 1381 (McGuire) Property Crimes: Regional Property Crimes Task Force
(As Amended on 3/20/2024)

SB 1416 (Newman) Sentencing Enhancements: Sale, Exchange, or Return of Stolen Property
(As Amended on 3/20/2024)

These bills propose several methods of addressing resale of stolen property and fencing locations that facilitate this illegal sale of stolen property. These methods range from providing funding and task forces for law enforcement to identify and crack down on these fencing operations, to creating sentencing enhancements for individuals convicted of selling property acquired through theft.

While these individual bills are important in order to continue to make progress on retail theft, these bills are only one part of a comprehensive solution that needs to include prevention, enforcement, and supervision. Cal Cities is part of a larger coalition of business, labor, law enforcement and local governments trying to address the increase in theft that is impacting so many Californians. Addressing fencing operations to resell stolen property is a way forward that can help solve this growing problem, however additional changes are needed in order to make our communities safer.

For these reasons, Cal Cities **supports the bills listed above**. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at voorhis@calcities.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jolena Voorhis", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jolena Voorhis
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Juan Alanis
The Honorable Nancy Skinner
The Honorable Mike McGuire
The Honorable Josh Newman
Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Sandy Uribe, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Gary Olson, Consultant, Republican Caucus



Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus