



August 12, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1779 (Irwin) Theft: Jurisdiction.
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE *(As Amended on June 29, 2024)*

Dear Governor Newsom,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) respectfully requests your **signature** on AB 1779 (Irwin) which would no longer limit the jurisdictional rules for prosecuting multi-county cases of theft, grand theft, shoplifting, burglary, and robbery.

As you may know, retail theft continues to be a problem in nearly 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. To address rising theft, city officials need additional tools to reduce crime and improve the safety of their neighborhoods.

Specifically, this bill would provide that if a case is brought by someone other than the Attorney General and multiple offenses are committed by the same defendant in multiple jurisdictions, the bill would allow a criminal action to be brought in any of those jurisdictions subject to a hearing on consolidation of the offenses. This bill would also require the prosecution to present written evidence at the hearing that all district attorneys in counties with jurisdiction over the offenses agree to the venue.

This type of cross-jurisdictional coordination existed previously from 2019 to 2021 and was key for prosecutors being able to deal with multi-jurisdictional cases. This provision needs to be restored to ensure accountability as well as judicial and financial efficiency.

Expanding coordination and abilities of District Attorneys to work together to prosecute theft offenses that occur in several counties will ensure offenders are held accountable, as well as work to combat organized retail theft rings.



AB 1779 is part of a package of bills that will make important changes to retail theft. Addressing multi-jurisdictional offenses is one of priorities Cal Cities has identified that need to be addressed before real progress can be made, however all of the proposed changes in the retail theft legislative package are needed in order to comprehensively address this issue.

For these reasons, Cal Cities urges your signature on AB 1779 (Irwin). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 658-8252 or jvoorhis@calcities.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jolena Voorhis".

Jolena Voorhis
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Jackie Irwin
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office