



August 12, 2024

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

RE: SB 1242 (Min) Crimes: Fires.
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE *(As Amended on July 1, 2024)*

Dear Governor Newsom,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) respectfully requests your **signature** on SB 1242 (Min), which would make setting a fire within a merchant's premises in order to facilitate organized retail theft an aggravating factor to increase the sentencing of the offender.

Specifically, SB 1242 would address the issue of fires being started to facilitate an organized retail theft incident while staff must attend to the fire created as a diversion. This bill would increase penalties from these brazen acts by designating them as an aggravating factor making this eligible for increased sentencing.

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.

SB 1242 is part of a package of bills that will make important changes to retail theft. Addressing this deadly practice to facilitate retail theft is one of the 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 SB 1242 (Min). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at jvoorhis@calcities.org.



Sincerely,

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

Jolena Voorhis
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Dave Min
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office