



August 12, 2024

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

RE: SB 905 (Wiener) Crimes: Theft from a Vehicle.
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 905, which would make forcible entry into a vehicle with the intent to commit theft or a felony a crime punishable by up to one year in a county jail. Further this bill would make the possession of stolen property with the intent to resell that property a crime punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony if the value of the property is higher than \$950.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, from January to October 2021 San Francisco lead the nation in automobile burglaries, and in 2018 lead the state in property crime with a rate double the rest of the state. The State of California has seen around a 33% increase in auto-burglaries in its major cities, with just San Francisco alone reporting over 16,500 vehicle burglaries in 2023. These burglaries vary greatly across different neighborhoods in the city, with the highest concentrations in neighborhoods that attract tourist activity such as North Beach, Pier 39, Lombard Street, and others have been growing since 2019.

Under existing law there are loopholes and barriers to securing arrests and convictions for the crime of auto-burglary, such as the "locked door" clause. Current law requires the prosecution to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the vehicle's doors were locked, the fact that an individual's windows were broken do not prove this fact. Often it is required for a victim to come testify that their doors were all locked, which places an undue burden on the victim, especially if they are tourists visiting the state and now must return to testify. Prosecutors currently face high barriers to succeed in securing convictions for these offenses which has contributed to the high rate of reported incidents in California's major cities.

This bill would close this loophole by no longer requiring proof of locked doors to be able to secure a conviction for auto-burglary. SB 905 is part of a package of bills that will make important changes to retail theft. While this bill would address an important issue of car theft, 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 905 (Wiener). 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 Scott Wiener
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office