



April 4, 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: Retail Theft Repeat Offenders Legislation**

Dear Assemblymember McCarty and Senator Wahab,

One of the League of California Cities' (Cal Cities) top advocacy priorities is to address crime, retail theft, organized retail theft and shoplifting. Since both houses have prioritized the issue of retail theft, Cal Cities would like to identify a few bills that we believe would help to address the issue of repeat offenders.

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. 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 lack of meaningful consequences for repeat offenders and ability to deter offenders has made it difficult for law enforcement and retailers to address this activity without any accountability on behalf of the offenders. Increased penalties for those with prior theft offenses or reinstating theft with a prior would hold repeat offenders accountable and make it less profitable to commit multiple acts of retail theft.

Therefore, we support the following bills:

[AB 1787 \(Villapudua\) Theft: Shoplifting](#)  
[\(As Amended on 3/18/2024\)](#)

[AB 3109 \(Muratsuchi\) Theft](#)  
[\(As Introduced on 2/16/2024\)](#)

[SB 923 \(Archuleta\) Theft](#)  
[\(As Amended on 3/18/2024\)](#)



These bills address repeat offenders of retail theft through increasing terms of incarceration for those with previous theft convictions from anywhere of 1 to 7 years upon subsequent convictions of theft-related offenses, and reinstating penalty theft with a prior which was removed from existing law under Proposition 47 and would lower the threshold to receive a felony charge from \$950 down to the previous threshold of \$450.

While these individual bills are important 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 repeat offenders is just one of the issues that can help solve this growing problem and make communities safer.

For these reasons, Cal Cities **supports the bills listed above.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [jvoorhis@calcities.org](mailto:jvoorhis@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 Carlos Villapudua  
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
The Honorable Bob Archuleta  
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