



House Bill 179 -- *Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025*
House Judiciary Committee
January 21, 2025
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 179 -- *Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025*.

House Bill 179 establishes the offense of “organized retail theft” of property with an aggregate “value” exceeding \$1,500. A violation of this prohibition is a felony punishable by graduated penalties based on the value of the property involved.

Organized retail theft is a growing problem for Montgomery County’s businesses and those throughout the State. Businesses need stronger laws against organized retail theft as proposed in House Bill 179. This legislation is a crucial step in addressing the growing problem of organized retail crime, which has significant economic and social impacts on our communities.

Organized retail theft affects businesses of all sizes, leading to substantial financial losses, increased security costs, and higher prices for consumers. Small businesses are often hit hardest, as they lack the resources to absorb these losses. In addition to the economic benefits, passage of this legislation will also contribute to the overall safety and well-being of our communities.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 179 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

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