



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB11/HB179

Senator Watson (JPR)

Delegate Toles (JUD)

Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB11/HB179 - SB11/HB179 provides that multiple thefts committed by the same person in multiple counties under one scheme or continuing course of conduct may be joined and prosecuted in any county in which any one of the thefts occurred. The bill also prohibits one or more persons from committing a series of thefts from retail merchants over a 90-day period, with an aggregate value exceeding \$1,500. Additionally, it requires a court to make a finding as to whether a certain crime is organized retail theft under certain circumstances and for certain purposes.

The Prince George's County Council strongly supports SB11/HB179, as it provides critical tools to address the escalating issue of organized retail theft that impacts local businesses and the overall economic vitality of our communities. By allowing multiple thefts committed under a single scheme across multiple jurisdictions to be joined and prosecuted in a single county, this legislation enhances efficiency and strengthens enforcement efforts. Additionally, the provisions targeting organized retail theft, particularly the prohibition of thefts exceeding \$1,500 in aggregate value over a 90-day period, reflect a necessary response to the sophisticated and coordinated nature of these crimes. This bill aligns with our commitment to supporting local businesses, protecting consumers, and ensuring the safety and security of our neighborhoods.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB11/HB179** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

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