

PSEA statement of support: SB 64

The Public Safety Employees Association supports raising the felony threshold limits for property crimes from \$500 to \$1000. PSEA's membership, consisting of municipal and state police officers and troopers, are tasked with the investigation of property crimes in the state. The monetary thresholds for all crimes against property has been unchanged, but the reality is today's economic situation is much different than it was several decades ago. \$500 damage in 2014 is relatively insignificant in comparison to the same crime committed in the 1970's. The mere theft of a cellular phone, a daily investigation facing our membership, is almost always a felony investigation.

PSEA believes raising the felony threshold for crimes against property from \$500 to \$1000 is reflective of inflation over the years. Those persons committing crimes such as stealing cellular phones should be held accountable, but not to such an extreme degree as to require years of incarceration and/or parole. Further, those charged with property crimes in excess of \$1000 should be held accountable, up to and including a substantial jail sentence. Prosecutors, with what will be a lower number of felony cases should be strongly encouraged to maintain these cases at the felony level up to the conviction and sentencing of the violator, and discouraged from lowering the charge to a misdemeanor in exchange for a guilty plea.

PSEA believes all property crimes should be prosecuted vigorously, but the statutes should be fair and reflective of current monetary levels for charging purposes.



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