



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney
SHARON L. WOO • Chief Deputy District Attorney
JOSEPH F. INIGUEZ • Chief of Staff

DANIEL FELIZZATTO • Legislative Advocate
TAMAR TOKAT • Legislative Advocate

June 24, 2022

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5210
Sacramento, CA 95814

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2294 (JONES-SAWYER)
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2294.

AB 2294 clarifies that law enforcement can take a person into custody on a misdemeanor if the person has been cited, arrested, or convicted of theft from a store in the past 6 months or if there is probable cause to believe that the person is guilty of committing organized retail theft. The bill also allows a court to issue a bench warrant for a defendant if similar factors apply and the defendant has failed to appear in court.

Additionally, AB 2294 would authorize a prosecuting attorney's office or county probation department to create a diversion or deferred entry of judgment (DEJ) program for persons who commit a theft or repeat theft offense. In determining if a defendant should be referred to a diversion or DEJ program, the bill would require the prosecuting attorney to consider specified risk factors such as risk level and appropriateness of the program placement.

The provisions of AB 2294 were part of California's original retail theft statute but were omitted the last time the statute was updated. While restoring these provisions of law will not eliminate the growing problem of organized retail theft, they do provide useful tools that courts and law enforcement can use to combat the problem.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney