

# Legislative Retail Reception

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The Washington Retail Association has joined together with partners to address the most pressing issues facing the retail industry, the marketplace, and employers.

## Public Safety, Retail Theft, and Organized Retail Crime

The serious and growing impacts of retail theft and organized retail crime are demanding our attention and requiring cooperation and action.

Action is needed from all levels of government – federal, state, and local – to ensure safer communities. No one bill or one strategy will solve these complex challenges. Rather a multi-pronged approach is needed.

## Now is the time for our state leaders to act.

### House Bill 1363 and Senate Bill 5352 Law enforcement vehicle pursuits

In 2021 there was police reform legislation which made it difficult to impossible for law enforcement to pursue suspected criminals. This legislation would allow law enforcement to safely pursue suspected thieves in most circumstances with proper supervisory oversight.

### Senate Bill 5160 ORC: Multiple accomplices

ORC rings operate with two or more accomplices. This bill would increase the penalties for retail theft teams of multiple accomplices.

### Senate Bill 5056 Increasing penalties for habitual offenders

Reports show that ORC rings are getting larger and more sophisticated, operating in multiple states and abroad. These rings steal from several retail establishments in a single day. This bill increases penalties for the egregious repeat offenders the ORC rings deploy.

### Funding for Organized Retail Crime Task Force

The Attorney General has created an Organized Retail Crime Task Force to identify, investigate, and prosecute the largest and most sophisticated crime rings plaguing retail establishments. The Task Force needs resources to bolster its efforts with dedicated prosecutors, investigators, and crime analysts. A \$3 million appropriation from the general fund has been requested.

#### For more information:

Mark Johnson, Sr. VP of Policy & Government Affairs, WR — (360) 704-0048 — [mjohnson@washingtonretail.org](mailto:mjohnson@washingtonretail.org)