



Senate Majority Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2023

Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Senate Votes to Create New Organized Retail Theft Task Force

SALEM, Ore - Today, the Senate passed [Senate Bill 900](#) with bipartisan support. This legislation establishes the Task Force on Organized Retail Theft geared towards making Oregon businesses and communities safer. The Task Force will be administered by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission charged with creating recommendations for changes to state laws or policies that will assist Oregon's law enforcement and local communities respond to and reduce organized retail theft.

“Organized retail theft is a growing threat to Oregon businesses, their customers, and innocent bystanders. This task force gives me hope that we will be able to quickly and effectively take on this crisis and make sure every Oregonian feels safe and secure when they are out shopping with their families,” said co-chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety **Senator Janeen Sollman (D - Hillsboro)**.

“We have a clear mandate from the people of Oregon to make our communities safer. I’m so glad the Senate could return to work in time to create this important task force to take on dangerous criminal behavior threatening Oregonians across the state,” said **Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D - Eugene & Veneta)**, a retired member of Oregon law enforcement.

[The US Chamber of Commerce reports that 57% of retailers have reported a rise in organized retail crime in the past year.](#) These thefts often involve networks of criminals who target high-value merchandise, causing significant financial losses for retailers, increasing costs for consumers and an unsafe work environment for retail workers.

Community safety is a top priority for Oregon Senate Democrats’ [2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

SB 900 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, SB 900 now moves to the House for consideration.

###