

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 25, 2026

SENATE BILL

No. 1019

Introduced by Senator Grove

February 10, 2026

~~An act to amend Section 587 of the Penal Code, relating to crimes.~~
An act to add Title 7 (commencing with Section 14000) to Part 4 of the Penal Code, relating to crime prevention and investigation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1019, as amended, Grove. ~~Crimes: destruction of railroads.~~
California Cargo Theft Task Force.

Existing law establishes various programs to prevent crime, coordinate the efforts of law enforcement, and collect and analyze criminal statistics. Existing law specifically establishes a regional property crimes task force to assist local law enforcement and railroad police in counties identified as having elevated levels of property crime, including, but not limited to, organized retail theft, cargo theft, vehicle burglary, and theft of vehicle parts and accessories. Under existing law, the Attorney General is the chief law officer of the state and the head of the Department of Justice.

This bill would require the Attorney General to establish the California Cargo Theft Task Force to combat crimes involving the theft, diversion, embezzlement, unlawful taking, or fraudulent acquisition of cargo or freight. The bill would prescribe the membership of the task force. The bill would require the task force, among other duties, to investigate, apprehend, and recommend for prosecution, as appropriate, individuals or entities that engage in cargo theft or related offenses. The bill would require the Attorney General, on or before January 1, 2028, and each year thereafter, to submit a report to the Governor,

Legislature, and Secretary of State on the activities of the task force, as specified. The bill would define terms for its purposes.

~~Existing law prohibits the destruction, damaging, or removal of, or interference with, as specified, any railroad or related infrastructure.~~

~~This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to those provisions.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 7 (commencing with Section 14000) is added
2 to Part 4 of the Penal Code, to read:

3
4 TITLE 7. CALIFORNIA CARGO THEFT TASK FORCE

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6 14000. The Attorney General shall establish the California
7 Cargo Theft Task Force to combat crimes involving the theft,
8 diversion, embezzlement, unlawful taking, or fraudulent acquisition
9 of cargo or freight. The task force shall focus on offenses involving
10 cargo moving in, constituting, or affecting interstate or intrastate
11 commerce.

12 14001. The following definitions shall apply to this title:

13 (a) "Cargo" means merchandise, goods, or wares that are
14 transported or intended to be transported in commerce, including
15 goods at any stage of the supply chain from origin to final
16 destination, whether the goods are moving or temporarily stored.

17 (b) "Cargo theft" includes the unlawful taking or appropriating
18 of cargo or freight, including theft accomplished through fraud,
19 deception, misrepresentation, or identity manipulation, from a
20 commercial motor vehicle, trailer, railcar, intermodal container,
21 warehouse, freight facility, distribution center, or other location
22 within the supply chain, whether the cargo is moving in interstate
23 or intrastate commerce.

24 (c) "Task force" means the California Cargo Theft Task Force
25 established by this title.

26 14002. The membership of the task force shall include a task
27 force commander, two law enforcement investigators, two police
28 or security professionals employed within the rail or freight

1 *transportation industry, and any additional law enforcement*
2 *personnel designated by the Attorney General.*

3 *14003. The task force shall do all of the following:*

4 *(a) Meet regularly to review investigations and intelligence and*
5 *to provide updates on ongoing cases to task force members.*

6 *(b) Investigate, apprehend, and recommend for prosecution, as*
7 *appropriate, individuals or entities that engage in cargo theft or*
8 *related offenses, including organized or repeat offenders and*
9 *persons who knowingly facilitate, finance, or receive stolen cargo*
10 *for financial gain.*

11 *(c) Investigate offenses or violations that are under the*
12 *jurisdiction of the Attorney General.*

13 *(d) Review, investigate, and recommend for prosecution*
14 *appropriate cases referred by federal, state, or local law*
15 *enforcement agencies.*

16 *(e) Coordinate with law enforcement agencies and industry*
17 *stakeholders to identify emerging cargo theft trends and methods*
18 *and to recommend prevention strategies.*

19 *14004. (a) On or before January 1, 2028, and each year*
20 *thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the*
21 *Governor, Legislature, and Secretary of State on the activities of*
22 *the task force. The report shall include all of the following, to the*
23 *extent applicable:*

24 *(1) A summary of investigations, prosecutions, and enforcement*
25 *actions taken by the task force.*

26 *(2) Information regarding trends and patterns related to cargo*
27 *theft in this state.*

28 *(3) The amount and type of stolen cargo recovered.*

29 *(4) Any recommendations for legislative or policy action relating*
30 *to criminal penalties, enforcement tools, or interagency*
31 *coordination to reduce cargo theft and protect the economy of this*
32 *state.*

33 *(b) A report submitted to the Legislature shall comply with*
34 *Section 9795 of the Government Code.*

35 ~~SECTION 1. Section 587 of the Penal Code is amended to~~
36 ~~read:~~

37 ~~587. A person who maliciously does either of the following is~~
38 ~~punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section~~
39 ~~1170, or imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year:~~

1 ~~(a) Removes, displaces, injures, or destroys any part of any~~
2 ~~railroad, whether for steam or horse cars, or any track of any~~
3 ~~railroad, or any branch or branchway, switch, turnout, bridge,~~
4 ~~viaduct, culvert, embankment, station house, or other structure or~~
5 ~~fixture, or any part thereof, attached to or connected with any~~
6 ~~railroad.~~

7 ~~(b) Places any obstruction upon the rails or track of any railroad,~~
8 ~~or of any switch, branch, branchway, or turnout connected with~~
9 ~~any railroad.~~

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