

# Larceny Bill



## S.2176 An Act relative to larceny

### Summary

- 1 Raises the threshold of felony larceny and other property charges from \$250 to \$1,500, putting Massachusetts in line with other states.
- 2 A \$1,500 threshold is not a historically high level for Massachusetts. In 1906, the cutoff was set at \$100, which equates to roughly \$2,400 in today's dollars.
- 3 The current larceny threshold has not been updated since 1987.

### The bill was the result of collaboration between multiple Senators



**Senator William N. Brownsberger**  
Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
@WBrownsberger



**Senator James B. Eldridge**  
@JamieEldridgeMA



**Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz**  
@SoniaChangDiaz



**Senator Patricia D. Jehlen**  
@SenJehlen



This legislation was passed on  
March 10, 2016

## STATUS



## Sent to House

## RESPONSE

**The  
Boston  
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“If you have a felony on your criminal record, it makes a big difference for applying for jobs: You probably won’t be hired. That conviction is going to create barriers for all kinds of opportunities”

*Pauline Quirion, director of the criminal records sealing project at Greater Boston Legal Services*

“If you stole a cell phone, that would be a felony under the current \$250 threshold. Now at \$1,500, it's something you would think is more appropriate.”

*Lew Finfer, a member of the Jobs Not Jails Coalition*

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## INFOGRAPHICS

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

MA Senate passes Larceny bill raising the threshold from \$250 to \$1500

@Ma\_Senate



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