SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 476 (Mark González) - Metal theft

Version: July 16, 2025
Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 11 - 0, PUB. S. 6 - 0
Urgency: No
Mandate: Yes
Hearing Date: August 29, 2025
Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 476 establishes the crime of organized metal theft, expands prohibitions for junk dealers and recyclers to be in possession of various types of scrap metal previously owned by a public utility provider or public agency, expands additional record-keeping requirements for junk dealers and recyclers, and increases fines for individuals and organized metal theft crimes related to scrap metal theft.

********** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE **********
The following information is revised to reflect amendments adopted by the committee on August 29, 2025

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, potentially significant cost pressures to the state funded trial court system to adjudicate alleged violations of this measure (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 in staff in workload. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

- Unknown, potentially significant costs (local funds) to the counties to incarcerate people for the crimes created by this bill. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail varies by county, but likely ranges from $70,000 to $90,000 per year. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail varies by county, but likely ranges from $70,000 to $90,000 per year. Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

- The Department of Justice does not anticipate any significant costs.

Committee Amendments: Delete the entirety of Section 5 of the bill that adds Section 496f to the Penal Code.

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