



Senator Tom Harman

SB 1325 Fact Sheet



SB 1325 – Agricultural Crime Fine Increase

A major factor affecting the bottom line of California's agricultural sector is crime. A study by the Urban Institute found that offenders and potential offenders modify their criminal behavior in response both to changes in their risk of detection and capture and to the expected severity of punishment. SB 1325 seeks to reduce ag crime by addressing both of these factors.

SB 1325, will increase the severity of punishment by assessing monetary penalties to felons who are convicted of multiple agricultural crimes. The bill will also increase the risk of detection by providing law enforcement and district attorneys much needed resources to combat agricultural crimes. The measure is sponsored by the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

Existing law provides that grand theft is committed when farm crops are taken in an excess of \$100. Current law provides that this crime is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail or state prison for up to one year.

Specifically SB 1325 will,

- Add a fine of \$5000 for the second felony conviction and \$10,000 for the third felony conviction to the current punishment for grand theft against agricultural producers.
- Extend the fine to theft of agricultural equipment.
- Allow a county to allocate up to 50% of the fines collected to the chief law enforcement officer of that county for allocation to the investigation and prosecution of agricultural crimes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Senator Harman welcomes your support and input of this important legislation. If you would like to be of assistance, please contact Megan Stineman in his Capitol office at (916) 651-4035.