

**Introduced by Senators Archuleta and Arreguín  
(Principal coauthors: Senators Cervantes, Grayson, Hurtado,  
Menjívar, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, and Umberg)**

February 20, 2025

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An act relating to crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 571, as introduced, Archuleta. Crimes.

Existing law defines any 2nd-degree burglary or grand theft, during and within an affected county in a state of emergency or local emergency, as specified, as looting, punishable by either imprisonment in a county jail for one year or as a felony.

Existing law prohibits credibly impersonating a peace officer, firefighter, or employee of a state or local government agency, or a search and rescue team, as specified. A violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a misdemeanor.

Existing law, until January 1, 2029, defines the offense of aggravated arson, and defines the aggravating factors for the offense as: the person has been previously convicted of arson on one or more occasions within the past 10 years, the fire caused property damage and other losses in excess of \$10,100,000, or the fire caused damage to, or the destruction of, 5 or more inhabited dwellings. Existing law, commencing January 1, 2029, deletes the aggravating factor of property damage and other losses in excess of \$10,100,000 from the definition of aggravated arson.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to strengthen penalties on looting during a state of emergency, impersonating first responders, and aggravated arson.

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

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

- 1     SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact
- 2     legislation to strengthen penalties on all of the following:
- 3     (a) Looting during a state of emergency.
- 4     (b) Impersonating first responders, including firefighters and
- 5     federal emergency management aid workers.
- 6     (c) Aggravated arson.