

1 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS**

2 2020 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Eric K. Hutchings**

5 Senate Sponsor: Daniel W. Thatcher

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill directs the Office of the Attorney General to create a multi-agency strike force
10 and the Organized Retail Crime Unit to combat certain crimes.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This bill:

- 13 ▶ directs the Office of the Attorney General to create and coordinate a multi-agency
14 strike force to combat crimes that may have a negative impact on the state's
15 economy;
- 16 ▶ directs the Office of the Attorney General to establish the Organized Retail Crime
17 Unit; and
- 18 ▶ establishes reporting requirements.

19 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

20 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2021:

- 21 ▶ to the Attorney General – Attorney General – Criminal Prosecution as an ongoing
22 appropriation:
 - 23 • from the General Fund, \$140,000.

24 **Other Special Clauses:**

25 None

26 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

27 ENACTS:



28 67-5-36, Utah Code Annotated 1953

30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section **67-5-36** is enacted to read:

32 **67-5-36. Multi-agency strike force -- Organized Retail Crime Unit.**

33 (1) The Office of the Attorney General shall create and coordinate the operation of a
34 multi-agency strike force to combat criminal activity that may have a negative impact
35 on the state's economy.

36 (2) The attorney general shall invite federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel
37 to participate in the strike force to more effectively utilize their combined skills, expertise, and
38 resources.

39 (3) The strike force shall focus the strike force's efforts on detecting, investigating,
40 detering, and eradicating criminal activity, described in Subsection (1), within the state,
41 including organized retail crime, antitrust violations, intellectual property rights violations,
42 gambling, and the purchase of stolen goods for the purpose of reselling the stolen goods for
43 profit.

44 (4) In conjunction with the strike force, the Office of the Attorney General shall
45 establish the Organized Retail Crime Unit for the purpose of:

46 (a) investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting individuals or entities that participate
47 in the purchase, sale, or distribution of stolen property; and

48 (b) targeting individuals or entities that commit theft and other property crimes for
49 financial gain.

50 (5) The strike force shall provide an annual report to the Law Enforcement and
51 Criminal Justice Interim Committee before December 1 that describes the strike force's
52 activities and any recommendations for modifications to this section.

53 Section 2. **Appropriation.**

54 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
55 2020, and ending June 30, 2021. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
56 fiscal year 2021. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures
57 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
58 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

59 ITEM 1

60 To Attorney General -- Attorney General

61 From General Fund

\$140,000

62 Schedule of Programs:

63 Criminal Prosecution

\$140,000

64 The Legislature intends that the Attorney General use the appropriation under this
65 section to fund one FTE for an attorney assigned to the strike force and the Organized Retail
66 Crime Unit described in Section [67-5-36](#).