



DIVISION OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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MEMORANDUM

Jeanne M. Smith
DIRECTOR

DATE: January 11, 2011

TO: Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees

FROM: Jeanne M. Smith *JMS*
Director
Division of Criminal Justice

SUBJECT: Dollar threshold for value-based crimes

Per C.R.S. 24-33.5-503(s), the Division has the following mandate:

To report, on or before January 15, 2011, and every five years thereafter, in consultation with the state economist, to the judiciary committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, recommendations for changes to value-based crimes based upon inflationary changes during the previous five years.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates the national inflation rate between 2006 and 2010 to be 8.4%: \$1,000 in 2006 had the buying power of \$1084.88 in 2010. The State Economist, Natalie Mullis, told us that the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 8.13% during this period, which would mean \$1,000 in 2006 is estimated to be worth \$1,081.30 in 2010. More specifically, according to the State Economist, the inflation rate for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley CPI is estimated to be 6.75% between 2006 and 2010, meaning that \$1,000 in 2006 is estimated to be worth \$1,067.50 in 2010.

These low rates lead the Division of Criminal Justice to recommend, per the statute referenced above, not currently modifying the thresholds for value-based crimes.