

Assembly Bill No. 546

CHAPTER 848

An act to add Section 8314.5 to the Government Code, relating to state computers.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2006. Filed with
Secretary of State September 30, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 546, Garcia. State computers: prohibited use: obscene matter.

Existing law makes it unlawful and subject to a civil penalty for any elected state or local officer, appointee, employee, or consultant to use or permit others to use public resources for personal or other purposes that are not authorized by law. Existing law also provides that the incidental and minimal use of public resources is not subject to criminal prosecution.

This bill, in furtherance of existing law, would make it unlawful for any elected state or local officer, including any state or local appointee, employee, or consultant, to knowingly use a state-owned or state-leased computer to access, view, download, or otherwise obtain obscene matter, as defined, except for specified purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Section 8314.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

8314.5. (a) In furtherance of Section 8314 and except as provided in subdivision (b), it shall be unlawful for any elected state or local officer, including any state or local appointee, employee, or consultant, to knowingly use a state-owned or state-leased computer to access, view, download, or otherwise obtain obscene matter.

(b) This section does not apply to accessing, viewing, downloading, or otherwise obtaining obscene matter for use consistent with legitimate law enforcement purposes, to permit a state agency to conduct an administrative disciplinary investigation, or for legitimate medical, scientific, academic, or legislative purposes, or for other legitimate state purposes.

(c) "Obscene matter" as used in this section has the meaning specified in Section 311 of the Penal Code.

(d) "State-owned or state-leased computer" means a computer owned or leased by one of the following:

(1) A state agency, as defined by Section 11000, including the California State University.

- (2) The University of California.
- (3) The Legislature.
- (e) This section shall not apply to the University of California unless and until the Regents of the University of California act, by resolution, to make it applicable.