

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1782**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro**  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Gatto)**

February 18, 2014

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An act to amend Section 591 of the Penal Code, relating to property crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1782, as amended, Chesbro. Wires: unlawful removal.

Under existing law it is a crime for any person to unlawfully and maliciously take down, remove, injure, or obstruct any line of telegraph, telephone, or cable television, or any other line used to conduct electricity, or any part thereof, or appurtenances or apparatus connected therewith, or to sever any wire, or make any unauthorized connection with any line, other than a telegraph, telephone, or cable television line, used to conduct electricity. Under existing law a violation of these provisions is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed 16 months, 2 or 3 years, or by a fine not exceeding \$500, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year.

This bill would additionally make it a crime for any person to unlawfully and maliciously disconnect or cut a line of telegraph, telephone, or cable television, or any line used to conduct electricity, or any part thereof, or appurtenance or apparatus connected therewith. The bill would specify that a connected appurtenance or apparatus includes a backup deep cycle battery or other power supply. The bill

would also increase the above-specified fine to an amount not exceeding \$10,000 per incident.

By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 591 of the Penal Code is amended to  
2 read:

3 591. A person who unlawfully and maliciously takes down,  
4 removes, injures, disconnects, cuts, or obstructs a line of telegraph,  
5 telephone, or cable television, or any line used to conduct  
6 electricity, or any part thereof, or appurtenances or apparatus  
7 connected therewith, including, but not limited to, a backup deep  
8 cycle battery or other power supply, or severs any wire thereof, or  
9 makes ~~any~~ an unauthorized connection with any line, other than  
10 a telegraph, telephone, or cable television line, used to conduct  
11 electricity, or any part thereof, or appurtenances or apparatus  
12 connected therewith, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to  
13 subdivision (h) of Section 1170, or by a fine not exceeding ten  
14 thousand dollars (\$10,000) per incident, or imprisonment in the  
15 county jail not exceeding one year.

16 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
17 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
18 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
19 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
20 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
21 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
22 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
23 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
24 Constitution.

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