

**Introduced by Senators Mitchell and Lieu**  
**(Principal coauthors: Senators Hill and Huff)**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Eggman)

February 6, 2014

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An act to amend Sections 629.52 and 629.98 of the Penal Code, relating to interception of electronic communications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 955, as introduced, Mitchell. Interception of electronic communications.

Existing law, until January 1, 2015, requires an application for an order authorizing the interception of a wire, oral, or other specified electronic communication to be made in writing upon the personal oath or affirmation of the Attorney General, Chief Deputy Attorney General, or Chief Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Law Division, or of a district attorney. Existing law, until January 1, 2015, authorizes the court to issue an order authorizing interception of those communications if the judge finds, among other things, that there is probable cause to believe that an individual is committing, has committed, or is about to commit, one several offenses, including, among others, possession for sale of certain controlled substances, murder, and certain felonies involving destructive devices.

This bill would add human trafficking to the list of offenses for which interception of electronic communications may be ordered pursuant to those provisions. The bill would extend the operation of the provisions described above until January 1, 2020.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 629.52 of the Penal Code is amended to  
2 read:

3 629.52. Upon application made under Section 629.50, the judge  
4 may enter an ex parte order, as requested or modified, authorizing  
5 interception of wire or electronic communications initially  
6 intercepted within the territorial jurisdiction of the court in which  
7 the judge is sitting, if the judge determines, on the basis of the  
8 facts submitted by the applicant, all of the following:

9 (a) There is probable cause to believe that an individual is  
10 committing, has committed, or is about to commit, one of the  
11 following offenses:

12 (1) Importation, possession for sale, transportation, manufacture,  
13 or sale of controlled substances in violation of Section 11351,  
14 11351.5, 11352, 11370.6, 11378, 11378.5, 11379, 11379.5, or  
15 11379.6 of the Health and Safety Code with respect to a substance  
16 containing heroin, cocaine, PCP, methamphetamine, or their  
17 precursors or analogs where the substance exceeds 10 gallons by  
18 liquid volume or three pounds of solid substance by weight.

19 (2) Murder, solicitation to commit murder, a violation of Section  
20 209, or the commission of a felony involving a destructive device  
21 in violation of Section 18710, 18715, 18720, 18725, 18730, 18740,  
22 18745, 18750, or 18755.

23 (3) Any felony violation of Section 186.22.

24 (4) Any felony violation of Section 11418, relating to weapons  
25 of mass destruction, Section 11418.5, relating to threats to use  
26 weapons of mass destruction, or Section 11419, relating to  
27 restricted biological agents.

28 (5) *Any violation of Section 236.1.*

29 ~~(5)~~

30 (6) An attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the  
31 above-mentioned crimes.

32 (b) There is probable cause to believe that particular  
33 communications concerning the illegal activities will be obtained  
34 through that interception, including, but not limited to,  
35 communications that may be utilized for locating or rescuing a  
36 kidnap victim.

37 (c) There is probable cause to believe that the facilities from  
38 which, or the place where, the wire or electronic communications

1 are to be intercepted are being used, or are about to be used, in  
2 connection with the commission of the offense, or are leased to,  
3 listed in the name of, or commonly used by the person whose  
4 communications are to be intercepted.

5 (d) Normal investigative procedures have been tried and have  
6 failed or reasonably appear either to be unlikely to succeed if tried  
7 or to be too dangerous.

8 SEC. 2. Section 629.98 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

9 629.98. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January  
10 1, ~~2015~~ 2020, and as of that date is repealed, *unless a later enacted*  
11 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2020, deletes or extends*  
12 *that date.*