

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 17, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 6, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 5, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 308

Introduced by Senator Wieckowski

February 23, 2015

An act to amend Section 2983.3 of the Civil Code, and to amend Sections 703.140, 704.010, 704.113, 704.115, 704.720, 704.730, and 704.960 of, and to add Sections 704.085, 704.111, and 704.165 to, the Code of Civil Procedure, *and to amend Section 22329 of the Financial Code*, relating to bankruptcy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 308, as amended, Wieckowski. Debtor exemptions.

Existing law prohibits the seller or holder of a conditional sale contract for a motor vehicle from accelerating the maturity of any part or all of the amount due under the contract or repossessing the vehicle in the absence of default in the performance of any of the buyer's obligations under the contract.

This bill would provide that neither the act of filing a bankruptcy petition by the buyer or other ~~individual~~ *person* liable on the contract nor the status of either of those persons as a debtor in bankruptcy constitutes a default in the performance of any of the buyer's obligations under the contract and neither may be used as a basis for accelerating the maturity of any part or all of the amount due under the contract or for repossessing the motor vehicle.

Existing law identifies various types of property of a judgment debtor that are exempt from the enforcement of a money judgment. Existing law provides that property described in statute as exempt may be claimed within the time and in the manner prescribed in the applicable enforcement procedure, and property described in statute as exempt without making a claim is not subject to any procedure for enforcement of a money judgment. These general exemptions are available to a debtor in a federal bankruptcy case, whether a money judgment is being enforced by execution sale or other procedure, unless the debtor elects certain alternative exemptions.

Existing law requires the Judicial Council to, every 3 years, adjust the amount of the exemptions applicable to exempt property based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, and to prepare conforming forms for those adjustments.

This bill would increase the statutory amounts of various exemptions to reflect the amounts of the exemptions as adjusted by the Judicial Council effective April 1, 2013.

Existing law authorizes a husband and wife who jointly file a bankruptcy petition to jointly elect to utilize the general exemptions or the alternative exemptions, but not both. The general exemptions are applicable if a bankruptcy petition is filed individually, and not jointly, for a husband or a wife, except that the husband and wife may jointly waive in writing their right to claim, during the period the case commenced by filing the petition is pending, the general exemptions and instead elect to utilize the alternative exemptions.

This bill would provide that a joint waiver is not required from a debtor who is separated from his or her spouse as of the date the bankruptcy petition is ~~filed~~ *filed, unless, on the petition date, the debtor and the debtor's spouse shared an ownership interest in property that could be exempted as a homestead, as specified.*

Existing law includes an alternative exemption for the debtor's right to receive a payment under a stock bonus, pension, profit-sharing, annuity, or similar plan or contract on account of illness, disability, death, age, or length of service to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor, unless all of several specified conditions apply, including that the plan or contract does not qualify under specified provisions of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

This bill would provide that a plan or contract covered by this alternative exemption would be exempt even if it did not qualify under

the specified provisions of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986 so long as the sole basis for the failure to qualify is a technical defect.

Existing law includes alternative exemptions for the debtor's right to receive, or property that is traceable to, a payment on account of the wrongful death of an individual of whom the debtor was a dependent and a payment under a life insurance contract that insured the life of an individual of whom the debtor was a dependent on the date of that individual's death.

This bill would make these exemptions applicable, as well, to payments regarding an individual of whom the debtor was a spouse.

Existing law includes an alternative exemption for the debtor's right to receive, or property that is traceable to, a payment on account of personal bodily injury of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is a dependent. Existing law sets this amount as \$25,575, as adjusted by the Judicial Council.

This bill would make this exemption applicable, as well, to a payment on account of personal bodily injury of the spouse of the debtor.

Existing law includes an alternative exemption for the debtor's right to receive, or property that is traceable to, a payment in compensation of loss of future earnings of the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is or was a dependent to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and a dependent of the debtor.

This bill would make this exemption applicable, as well, to a payment regarding an individual of whom the debtor is or was a spouse, and would provide that the exemption applies to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and a spouse or dependent of the debtor.

Existing law provides that vacation credits, as defined, are exempt from enforcement of a money judgment without making a claim.

This bill would delete the definition of "vacation credits" set forth in these provisions and expand this general exemption to also include accrued or unused vacation pay, sick leave, and family leave. The bill also would add an alternative exemption for the debtor's right to receive these expanded assets.

Existing law exempts any combination of aggregate equity in motor vehicles, the proceeds of an execution sale of a motor vehicle, and the proceeds of insurance or other indemnification for the loss, damage, or destruction of a motor vehicle. Existing law sets this amount of this exemption, as adjusted by the Judicial Council, at \$2,900. Existing law

includes an alternative exemption for up to \$5,100, as adjusted by the Judicial Council, of the debtor's interest in one or more motor vehicles.

This bill would increase the amount of the general and alternative exemption for motor vehicle equity to \$6,000, and make conforming changes.

This bill would provide that the aggregate interest of a debtor who is engaged in business, not to exceed \$5,000 in cash or deposit accounts, accounts receivable, and inventory of the business is exempt.

Existing law includes an alternative exemption for the debtor's right to receive alimony, support, or separate maintenance, to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor.

This bill would provide that these assets are exempt, thereby adding a general exemption matching the existing alternative exemption.

Existing law provides that all amounts held, controlled, or in process of distribution by a private retirement plan, for the payment of benefits as an annuity, pension, retirement allowance, disability payment, or death benefit from a private retirement plan are exempt. Existing law defines "private retirement plan" to include self-employed retirement plans and individual retirement annuities or accounts provided for in the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including individual retirement accounts qualified under specified provisions of that code.

This bill would expand this exemption to also include individual retirement accounts that do not qualify under those specified provisions on the basis of a technical defect alone.

Existing law provides that various causes of action and awards of damages or settlements arising out of those actions are exempt to varying extent, as specified.

This bill would provide that a cause of action arising out of or regarding the violation of any law relating to the judgment debtor's employment is exempt without making a claim, except as provided in specified statutory provisions, and an award of damages or a settlement arising out of or regarding the violation of any law relating to the judgment debtor's employment is exempt to the extent necessary for the support of the judgment debtor and the spouse and dependents of the judgment debtor. The bill also would add identical alternative exemptions in this regard.

Existing law provides that the proceeds of sale or of insurance or other indemnification for damage or destruction of a homestead, the proceeds received as compensation for a homestead acquired for public

use, or the proceeds from a voluntary sale of a declared homestead, are exempt in the amount of the homestead exemption provided in a specified statute for a period of 6 months after the time the proceeds are actually received by the judgment debtor, except as provided.

~~This bill would delete the 6-month limitation on these exemptions, thereby making these proceeds exempt indefinitely, and make conforming changes~~ *specify that, in a case under Title 11 of the United States Code, regardless of whether the sale is voluntary or involuntary, the expiration of the six-month period at any time after the filing of the case does not terminate the exempt status of the homestead or its proceeds.*

Existing law provides that a specified portion of equity in a homestead, as defined, is exempt from execution to satisfy a judgment debt and prescribes that the amount of the homestead exemption is either \$75,000, \$100,000, or \$175,000, depending on certain characteristics of the homestead’s residents.

This bill would increase these exemptions to ~~\$175,000, \$250,000, \$100,000, \$150,000~~ or \$300,000, respectively.

Existing law provides that, in the absence of default in the performance of a borrower’s obligations under a loan secured in whole or in part by a lien on a motor vehicle, as defined, a licensee may not accelerate the maturity of any or all of the amount due on the loan or repossess the motor vehicle.

This bill would provide that neither the act of filing a bankruptcy petition by the borrower or other person liable on the loan nor the status of either of those persons as a debtor in bankruptcy constitutes a default in the performance of any of the borrower’s obligations under the loan and neither may be used as a basis for accelerating the maturity of any part or all of the amount due under the loan or for repossessing the motor vehicle.

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 2983.3 of the Civil Code is amended to
- 2 read:
- 3 2983.3. (a) (1) In the absence of default in the performance
- 4 of any of the buyer’s obligations under the contract, the seller or

1 holder may not accelerate the maturity of any part or all of the
2 amount due thereunder or repossess the motor vehicle.

3 (2) Neither the act of filing a petition commencing a case for
4 bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code by the buyer
5 or other ~~individual~~ *person* liable on the contract nor the status of
6 either of those persons as a debtor in bankruptcy constitutes a
7 default in the performance of any of the buyer's obligations under
8 the contract, and neither may be used as a basis for accelerating
9 the maturity of any part or all of the amount due under the contract
10 or for repossessing the motor vehicle.

11 (b) If after default by the buyer, the seller or holder repossesses
12 or voluntarily accepts surrender of the motor vehicle, any person
13 liable on the contract shall have a right to reinstate the contract
14 and the seller or holder shall not accelerate the maturity of any
15 part or all of the contract prior to expiration of the right to reinstate,
16 unless the seller or holder reasonably and in good faith determines
17 that any of the following has occurred:

18 (1) The buyer or any other person liable on the contract by
19 omission or commission intentionally provided false or misleading
20 information of material importance on his or her credit application.

21 (2) The buyer, any other person liable on the contract, or any
22 permissive user in possession of the motor vehicle, in order to
23 avoid repossession has concealed the motor vehicle or removed it
24 from the state.

25 (3) The buyer, any other person liable on the contract, or any
26 permissive user in possession of the motor vehicle, has committed
27 or threatens to commit acts of destruction, or has failed to take
28 care of the motor vehicle in a reasonable manner, so that the motor
29 vehicle has become substantially impaired in value, or the buyer,
30 any other person liable on the contract, or any nonoccasional
31 permissive user in possession of the motor vehicle has failed to
32 take care of the motor vehicle in a reasonable manner, so that the
33 motor vehicle may become substantially impaired in value.

34 (4) The buyer or any other person liable on the contract has
35 committed, attempted to commit, or threatened to commit criminal
36 acts of violence or bodily harm against an agent, employee, or
37 officer of the seller or holder in connection with the seller's or
38 holder's repossession of or attempt to repossess the motor vehicle.

39 (5) The buyer has knowingly used the motor vehicle, or has
40 knowingly permitted it to be used, in connection with the

1 commission of a criminal offense, other than an infraction, as a
2 consequence of which the motor vehicle has been seized by a
3 federal, state, or local agency or authority pursuant to federal, state,
4 or local law.

5 (6) The motor vehicle has been seized by a federal, state, or
6 local public agency or authority pursuant to (A) Section 1324 of
7 Title 8 of the United States Code or Part 274 of Title 8 of the Code
8 of Federal Regulations, (B) Section 881 of Title 21 of the United
9 States Code or Part 9 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal
10 Regulations, or (C) other federal, state, or local law, including
11 regulations, and, pursuant to that other law, the seizing authority,
12 as a precondition to the return of the motor vehicle to the seller or
13 holder, prohibits the return of the motor vehicle to the buyer or
14 other person liable on the contract or any third person claiming
15 the motor vehicle by or through them or otherwise effects or
16 requires the termination of the property rights in the motor vehicle
17 of the buyer or other person liable on the contract or claimants by
18 or through them.

19 (c) Exercise of the right to reinstate the contract shall be limited
20 to once in any 12-month period and twice during the term of the
21 contract.

22 (d) The provisions of this subdivision cover the method by
23 which a contract shall be reinstated with respect to curing events
24 of default which were a ground for repossession or occurred
25 subsequent to repossession:

26 (1) Where the default is the result of the buyer's failure to make
27 any payment due under the contract, the buyer or any other person
28 liable on the contract shall make the defaulted payments and pay
29 any applicable delinquency charges.

30 (2) Where the default is the result of the buyer's failure to keep
31 and maintain the motor vehicle free from all encumbrances and
32 liens of every kind, the buyer or any other person liable on the
33 contract shall either satisfy all encumbrances and liens or, in the
34 event the seller or holder satisfies the encumbrances and liens, the
35 buyer or any other person liable on the contract shall reimburse
36 the seller or holder for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred
37 therefor.

38 (3) Where the default is the result of the buyer's failure to keep
39 and maintain insurance on the motor vehicle, the buyer or any
40 other person liable on the contract shall either obtain the insurance

1 or, in the event the seller or holder has obtained the insurance, the
2 buyer or any other person liable on the contract shall reimburse
3 the seller or holder for premiums paid and all reasonable costs and
4 expenses, including, but not limited to, any finance charge in
5 connection with the premiums permitted by Section 2982.8,
6 incurred therefor.

7 (4) Where the default is the result of the buyer's failure to
8 perform any other obligation under the contract, unless the seller
9 or holder has made a good faith determination that the default is
10 so substantial as to be incurable, the buyer or any other person
11 liable on the contract shall either cure the default or, if the seller
12 or holder has performed the obligation, reimburse the seller or
13 holder for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred in connection
14 therewith.

15 (5) Additionally, the buyer or any other person liable on the
16 contract shall, in all cases, reimburse the seller or holder for all
17 reasonable and necessary collection and repossession costs and
18 fees incurred, including attorney's fees and legal expenses
19 expended in retaking and holding the vehicle.

20 (e) If the seller or holder denies the right to reinstatement under
21 subdivision (b) or paragraph (4) of subdivision (d), the seller or
22 holder shall have the burden of proof that the denial was justified
23 in that it was reasonable and made in good faith. If the seller or
24 holder fails to sustain the burden of proof, the seller or holder shall
25 not be entitled to a deficiency, but it shall not be presumed that
26 the buyer is entitled to damages by reason of the failure of the
27 seller or holder to sustain the burden of proof.

28 (f) This section shall not apply to a loan made by a lender
29 licensed under Division 9 (commencing with Section 22000) of
30 the Financial Code.

31 SEC. 2. Section 703.140 of the Code of Civil Procedure is
32 amended to read:

33 703.140. (a) In a case under Title 11 of the United States Code,
34 all of the exemptions provided by this chapter, including the
35 homestead exemption, other than the provisions of subdivision (b)
36 are applicable regardless of whether there is a money judgment
37 against the debtor or whether a money judgment is being enforced
38 by execution sale or any other procedure, but the exemptions
39 provided by subdivision (b) may be elected in lieu of all other
40 exemptions provided by this chapter, as follows:

1 (1) If a husband and wife are joined in the petition, they jointly
2 may elect to utilize the applicable exemption provisions of this
3 chapter other than the provisions of subdivision (b), or to utilize
4 the applicable exemptions set forth in subdivision (b), but not both.

5 (2) (A) If the petition is filed individually, and not jointly, for
6 a husband or a wife, the exemptions provided by this chapter other
7 than the provisions of subdivision (b) are applicable, except that,
8 if both the husband and the wife effectively waive in writing the
9 right to claim, during the period the case commenced by filing the
10 petition is pending, the exemptions provided by the applicable
11 exemption provisions of this chapter, other than subdivision (b),
12 in any case commenced by filing a petition for either of them under
13 Title 11 of the United States Code, then they may elect to instead
14 utilize the applicable exemptions set forth in subdivision (b). ~~A~~

15 (B) *Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a waiver is not required,*
16 ~~however, required~~ from a debtor who is separated from his or her
17 spouse as of the date the petition commencing the case under Title
18 11 of the United States Code is ~~filed~~ *filed, unless, on the petition*
19 *date, the debtor and the debtor's spouse shared an ownership*
20 *interest in property that could be exempted as a homestead under*
21 *Article 4 of this chapter.*

22 (3) If the petition is filed for an unmarried person, that person
23 may elect to utilize the applicable exemption provisions of this
24 chapter other than subdivision (b), or to utilize the applicable
25 exemptions set forth in subdivision (b), but not both.

26 (b) The following exemptions may be elected as provided in
27 subdivision (a):

28 (1) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed twenty-five
29 thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$25,575) in value, in
30 real property or personal property that the debtor or a dependent
31 of the debtor uses as a residence, in a cooperative that owns
32 property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a
33 residence.

34 (2) The debtor's interest, not to exceed six thousand dollars
35 (\$6,000) in value, in one or more motor vehicles.

36 (3) The debtor's interest, not to exceed six hundred fifty dollars
37 (\$650) in value in any particular item, in household furnishings,
38 household goods, wearing apparel, appliances, books, animals,
39 crops, or musical instruments, that are held primarily for the

1 personal, family, or household use of the debtor or a dependent of
2 the debtor.

3 (4) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed one thousand
4 five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$1,525) in value, in jewelry held
5 primarily for the personal, family, or household use of the debtor
6 or a dependent of the debtor.

7 (5) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed in value one
8 thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$1,350) plus any unused
9 amount of the exemption provided under paragraph (1), in any
10 property.

11 (6) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed seven thousand
12 six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$7,625) in value, in any
13 implements, professional books, or tools of the trade of the debtor
14 or the trade of a dependent of the debtor.

15 (7) Any unmaturred life insurance contract owned by the debtor,
16 other than a credit life insurance contract.

17 (8) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed in value
18 thirteen thousand six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$13,675), in
19 any accrued dividend or interest under, or loan value of, any
20 unmaturred life insurance contract owned by the debtor under which
21 the insured is the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is a
22 dependent.

23 (9) Professionally prescribed health aids for the debtor or a
24 dependent of the debtor.

25 (10) The debtor's right to receive any of the following:

26 (A) A social security benefit, unemployment compensation, or
27 a local public assistance benefit.

28 (B) A veterans' benefit.

29 (C) A disability, illness, or unemployment benefit.

30 (D) Alimony, support, or separate maintenance, to the extent
31 reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any
32 dependent of the debtor.

33 (E) A payment under a stock bonus, pension, profit-sharing,
34 annuity, or similar plan or contract on account of illness, disability,
35 death, age, or length of service, to the extent reasonably necessary
36 for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor,
37 unless all of the following apply:

38 (i) That plan or contract was established by or under the auspices
39 of an insider that employed the debtor at the time the debtor's
40 rights under the plan or contract arose.

1 (ii) The payment is on account of age or length of service.

2 (iii) That plan or contract does not qualify under Section 401(a),
3 403(a), 403(b), 408, or 408A of the Internal Revenue Code of
4 1986, as amended, on a basis other than a technical defect alone.

5 (F) Vacation credits or accrued, or unused, vacation pay, sick
6 leave, or family leave.

7 (11) The debtor's right to receive, or property that is traceable
8 to, any of the following:

9 (A) An award under a crime victim's reparation law.

10 (B) A payment on account of the wrongful death of an individual
11 of whom the debtor was a spouse or dependent, to the extent
12 reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any
13 dependent of the debtor.

14 (C) A payment under a life insurance contract that insured the
15 life of an individual of whom the debtor was a spouse or dependent
16 on the date of that individual's death, to the extent reasonably
17 necessary for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the
18 debtor.

19 (D) A payment, not to exceed twenty-five thousand five hundred
20 seventy-five dollars (\$25,575), on account of personal bodily injury
21 of the debtor, the spouse of the debtor, or an individual of whom
22 the debtor is a dependent.

23 (E) A payment in compensation of loss of future earnings of
24 the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is or was a spouse
25 or dependent, to the extent reasonably necessary for the support
26 of the debtor and a spouse or dependent of the debtor.

27 (12) (A) Except as provided in Article 5 (commencing with
28 Section 708.410) of Chapter 6, a cause of action arising out of or
29 regarding the violation of any law relating to the judgment debtor's
30 employment is exempt without making a claim.

31 (B) An award of damages from or a settlement arising out of or
32 regarding the violation of any law relating to the judgment debtor's
33 employment is exempt to the extent necessary for the support of
34 the judgment debtor and the spouse and dependents of the judgment
35 debtor.

36 SEC. 3. Section 704.010 of the Code of Civil Procedure is
37 amended to read:

38 704.010. (a) Any combination of the following is exempt in
39 the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000):

40 (1) The aggregate equity in motor vehicles.

- 1 (2) The proceeds of an execution sale of a motor vehicle.
- 2 (3) The proceeds of insurance or other indemnification for the
- 3 loss, damage, or destruction of a motor vehicle.
- 4 (b) Proceeds exempt under subdivision (a) are exempt for a
- 5 period of 90 days after the time the proceeds are actually received
- 6 by the judgment debtor.
- 7 (c) For the purpose of determining the equity, the fair market
- 8 value of a motor vehicle shall be determined by reference to used
- 9 car price guides customarily used by California automobile dealers
- 10 unless the motor vehicle is not listed in such price guides.
- 11 (d) If the judgment debtor has only one motor vehicle and it is
- 12 sold at an execution sale, the proceeds of the execution sale are
- 13 exempt in the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) without
- 14 making a claim. The levying officer shall consult and may rely
- 15 upon the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles in
- 16 determining whether the judgment debtor has only one motor
- 17 vehicle. In the case covered by this subdivision, the exemption
- 18 provided by subdivision (a) is not available.

19 SEC. 4. Section 704.085 is added to the Code of Civil
 20 Procedure, to read:

21 704.085. The aggregate interest of a debtor who is engaged in
 22 a business, not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), in cash
 23 or deposit accounts, accounts receivable, and inventory of the
 24 business is exempt.

25 SEC. 5. Section 704.111 is added to the Code of Civil
 26 Procedure, to read:

27 704.111. Alimony, support, and separate maintenance, to the
 28 extent reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any
 29 dependent of the debtor, are exempt.

30 SEC. 6. Section 704.113 of the Code of Civil Procedure is
 31 amended to read:

32 704.113. (a) All vacation credits or accrued, or unused,
 33 vacation pay, sick leave, or family leave is exempt without making
 34 a claim.

35 (b) Amounts paid periodically or as a lump sum representing
 36 vacation credits are subject to any earnings withholding order
 37 served under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 706.010) or
 38 any earnings assignment order for support as defined in Section
 39 706.011 and are exempt to the same extent as earnings of a
 40 judgment debtor.

1 SEC. 7. Section 704.115 of the Code of Civil Procedure is
2 amended to read:

3 704.115. (a) As used in this section, “private retirement plan”
4 means:

5 (1) Private retirement plans, including, but not limited to, union
6 retirement plans.

7 (2) Profit-sharing plans designed and used for retirement
8 purposes.

9 (3) Self-employed retirement plans and individual retirement
10 annuities or accounts provided for in the Internal Revenue Code
11 of 1986, as amended, including individual retirement accounts
12 qualified under Section 408 or 408A of that code and accounts
13 that do not qualify on the basis of a technical defect alone, to the
14 extent the amounts held in the plans, annuities, or accounts do not
15 exceed the maximum amounts exempt from federal income taxation
16 under that code.

17 (b) All amounts held, controlled, or in process of distribution
18 by a private retirement plan, for the payment of benefits as an
19 annuity, pension, retirement allowance, disability payment, or
20 death benefit from a private retirement plan are exempt.

21 (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), where an amount described
22 in subdivision (b) becomes payable to a person and is sought to
23 be applied to the satisfaction of a judgment for child, family, or
24 spousal support against that person:

25 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amount is exempt
26 only to the extent that the court determines under subdivision (c)
27 of Section 703.070.

28 (2) If the amount sought to be applied to the satisfaction of the
29 judgment is payable periodically, the amount payable is subject
30 to an earnings assignment order for support as defined in Section
31 706.011 or any other applicable enforcement procedure, but the
32 amount to be withheld pursuant to the assignment order or other
33 procedure shall not exceed the amount permitted to be withheld
34 on an earnings withholding order for support under Section
35 706.052.

36 (d) After payment, the amounts described in subdivision (b)
37 and all contributions and interest thereon returned to any member
38 of a private retirement plan are exempt.

39 (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (b) and (d), except as provided
40 in subdivision (f), the amounts described in paragraph (3) of

1 subdivision (a) are exempt only to the extent necessary to provide
2 for the support of the judgment debtor when the judgment debtor
3 retires and for the support of the spouse and dependents of the
4 judgment debtor, taking into account all resources that are likely
5 to be available for the support of the judgment debtor when the
6 judgment debtor retires. In determining the amount to be exempt
7 under this subdivision, the court shall allow the judgment debtor
8 such additional amount as is necessary to pay any federal and state
9 income taxes payable as a result of the applying of an amount
10 described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) to the satisfaction of
11 the money judgment.

12 (f) Where the amounts described in paragraph (3) of subdivision
13 (a) are payable periodically, the amount of the periodic payment
14 that may be applied to the satisfaction of a money judgment is the
15 amount that may be withheld from a like amount of earnings under
16 Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 706.010). To the extent a
17 lump-sum distribution from an individual retirement account is
18 treated differently from a periodic distribution under this
19 subdivision, any lump-sum distribution from an account qualified
20 under Section 408A of the Internal Revenue Code shall be treated
21 the same as a lump-sum distribution from an account qualified
22 under Section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code for purposes of
23 determining whether any of that payment may be applied to the
24 satisfaction of a money judgment.

25 SEC. 8. Section 704.165 is added to the Code of Civil
26 Procedure, to read:

27 704.165. (a) Except as provided in Article 5 (commencing
28 with Section 708.410) of Chapter 6, a cause of action arising out
29 of or regarding the violation of any law relating to the judgment
30 debtor's employment is exempt without making a claim.

31 (b) An award of damages from or a settlement arising out of or
32 regarding the violation of any law relating to the judgment debtor's
33 employment is exempt to the extent necessary for the support of
34 the judgment debtor and the spouse and dependents of the judgment
35 debtor.

36 SEC. 9. Section 704.720 of the Code of Civil Procedure is
37 amended to read:

38 704.720. (a) A homestead is exempt from sale under this
39 division to the extent provided in Section 704.800.

1 (b) (1) If a homestead is sold under this division or is damaged
2 or destroyed or is acquired for public use, the proceeds of sale or
3 of insurance or other indemnification for damage or destruction
4 of the homestead or the proceeds received as compensation for a
5 homestead acquired for public use are exempt in the amount of
6 the homestead exemption provided in Section ~~704.730~~. 704.730
7 *for a period of six months after the time the proceeds are actually*
8 *received by the judgment debtor, except as provided in paragraph*
9 (2).

10 (2) *If a homestead exemption is applied to other property of*
11 *the judgment debtor or the judgment debtor's spouse during the*
12 *six-month period described in paragraph (1), the proceeds*
13 *thereafter are not exempt.*

14 (3) *In a case under Title 11 of the United States Code, regardless*
15 *of whether the sale is voluntary or involuntary, the expiration of*
16 *the six-month period described in paragraph (1) at any time after*
17 *the filing of the case shall not terminate the exempt status of the*
18 *homestead or its proceeds.*

19 (c) If the judgment debtor and spouse of the judgment debtor
20 reside in separate homesteads, only the homestead of one of the
21 spouses is exempt and only the proceeds of the exempt homestead
22 are exempt.

23 (d) (1) If a judgment debtor is not currently residing in the
24 homestead, but his or her separated or former spouse continues to
25 reside in or exercise control over possession of the homestead, that
26 judgment debtor continues to be entitled to an exemption under
27 this article until entry of judgment or other legally enforceable
28 agreement dividing the community property between the judgment
29 debtor and the separated or former spouse, or until a later time
30 period as specified by court order. ~~Nothing~~

31 (2) ~~Nothing~~ in this subdivision shall entitle the judgment debtor
32 to more than one exempt homestead. ~~Notwithstanding~~

33 (3) ~~Notwithstanding~~ subdivision (d) of Section 704.710, for
34 purposes of this article, "spouse" may include a separated or former
35 spouse consistent with this subdivision.

36 SEC. 10. Section 704.730 of the Code of Civil Procedure is
37 amended to read:

38 704.730. (a) The amount of the homestead exemption is one
39 of the following:

1 (1) One hundred ~~seventy-five~~ thousand dollars ~~(\$175,000)~~
2 ~~(\$100,000)~~ unless the judgment debtor or spouse of the judgment
3 debtor who resides in the homestead is a person described in
4 paragraph (2) or (3).

5 (2) ~~Two~~ *One* hundred fifty thousand dollars
6 ~~(\$250,000)~~ *(\$150,000)* if the judgment debtor or spouse of the
7 judgment debtor who resides in the homestead is at the time of the
8 attempted sale of the homestead a member of a family unit, and
9 there is at least one member of the family unit who owns no interest
10 in the homestead or whose only interest in the homestead is a
11 community property interest with the judgment debtor.

12 (3) Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) if the judgment
13 debtor or spouse of the judgment debtor who resides in the
14 homestead is at the time of the attempted sale of the homestead
15 any one of the following:

16 (A) A person 65 years of age or older.

17 (B) A person physically or mentally disabled who as a result of
18 that disability is unable to engage in substantial gainful
19 employment. There is a rebuttable presumption affecting the burden
20 of proof that a person receiving disability insurance benefit
21 payments under Title II or supplemental security income payments
22 under Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act satisfies the
23 requirements of this paragraph as to his or her inability to engage
24 in substantial gainful employment.

25 (C) A person 55 years of age or older with a gross annual income
26 of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or, if the
27 judgment debtor is married, a gross annual income, including the
28 gross annual income of the judgment debtor's spouse, of not more
29 than thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) and the sale is an
30 involuntary sale.

31 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the
32 combined homestead exemptions of spouses on the same judgment
33 shall not exceed the amount specified in paragraph (2) or (3) of
34 subdivision (a), regardless of whether the spouses are jointly
35 obligated on the judgment and regardless of whether the homestead
36 consists of community or separate property or both.
37 Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, if both spouses
38 are entitled to a homestead exemption, the exemption of proceeds
39 of the homestead shall be apportioned between the spouses on the
40 basis of their proportionate interests in the homestead.

1 SEC. 11. Section 704.960 of the Code of Civil Procedure is
2 amended to read:

3 704.960. (a) (1) If a declared homestead is voluntarily sold,
4 the proceeds of sale are exempt in the amount provided by Section
5 ~~704.730~~; 704.730 for a period of six months after the date of the
6 sale.

7 (2) *In a case under Title 11 of the United States Code, regardless*
8 *of whether the sale is voluntary or involuntary, the expiration of*
9 *the six-month period described in paragraph (1) at any time after*
10 *the filing of such case shall not terminate the exempt status of the*
11 *homestead or its proceeds.*

12 (b) *If the proceeds of a declared homestead are invested in a*
13 *new dwelling within six months after the date of a voluntary sale*
14 *or within six months after proceeds of an execution sale or of*
15 *insurance or other indemnification for damage or destruction are*
16 *received, the new dwelling may be selected as a declared*
17 *homestead by recording a homestead declaration within the*
18 *applicable six-month period. In that case, the homestead*
19 *declaration shall have the same effect as if it had been recorded*
20 *at the time the prior homestead declaration was recorded.*

21 SEC. 12. Section 22329 of the Financial Code is amended to
22 read:

23 22329. (a) This section applies to a loan secured in whole or
24 in part by a lien on a motor vehicle as defined by subdivision (k)
25 of Section 2981 of the Civil Code.

26 (b) (1) In the absence of default in the performance of any of
27 the borrower's obligations under the loan, the licensee may not
28 accelerate the maturity of any part or all of the amount due
29 thereunder or repossess the motor vehicle.

30 (2) *Neither the act of filing a petition commencing a case for*
31 *bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code by the*
32 *borrower or other person liable on the loan nor the status of either*
33 *of those persons as a debtor in bankruptcy constitutes a default in*
34 *the performance of any of the borrower's obligations under the*
35 *loan, and neither may be used as a basis for accelerating the*
36 *maturity of any part or all of the amount due under the loan or for*
37 *repossessing the motor vehicle.*

38 (c) If, after default by the borrower, the licensee repossesses or
39 voluntarily accepts surrender of the motor vehicle, any person
40 liable on the loan shall have a right to reinstate the loan and the

1 licensee shall not accelerate the maturity of any part or all of the
2 loan prior to the expiration of the right to reinstate, unless the
3 licensee reasonably and in good faith determines that:

4 (1) The borrower or any other person liable on the loan by
5 omission or commission intentionally provided false or misleading
6 information of material importance on his or her credit application.

7 (2) The borrower or any other person liable on the loan has
8 concealed the motor vehicle or removed it from the state in order
9 to avoid repossession.

10 (3) The borrower or any other person liable on the loan has
11 committed or threatens to commit acts of destruction, or has failed
12 to take care of the motor vehicle in a reasonable manner, so that
13 the motor vehicle has or may become substantially impaired in
14 value.

15 (d) Exercise of the right to reinstate the loan shall be limited to
16 once in any 12-month period and twice during the term of the loan.

17 (e) The provisions of this subdivision shall govern the method
18 by which a loan shall be reinstated with respect to curing events
19 of default that were grounds for repossession or that occurred
20 subsequent to repossession.

21 (1) Where the default is the result of the borrower's failure to
22 make any payment due under the loan, the borrower or any other
23 person liable on the loan shall make the defaulted payments and
24 pay any applicable delinquency charges.

25 (2) Where the default is the result of the borrower's failure to
26 keep and maintain the motor vehicle free from all encumbrances
27 and liens of every kind, the borrower or any person liable on the
28 loan shall either satisfy all the encumbrances and liens or, in the
29 event the licensee satisfies the encumbrances and liens, the
30 borrower or any other person liable on the loan shall reimburse
31 the licensee for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred therefor.

32 (3) Where the default is the result of the borrower's failure to
33 keep and maintain insurance on the motor vehicle, the borrower
34 or any other person liable on the loan shall either obtain the
35 insurance or, in the event the licensee has obtained the insurance,
36 the borrower or any other person liable on the loan shall reimburse
37 the licensee for premiums paid and all reasonable costs and
38 expenses incurred therefor.

39 (4) Where the default is the result of the borrower's failure to
40 perform any other obligation under the loan, unless the licensee

1 has made a good faith determination that the default is so
2 substantial as to be incurable, the borrower or any other person
3 liable on the loan shall reimburse the licensee for all reasonable
4 costs and expenses incurred therefor.

5 (5) Additionally, the borrower or any other person liable on the
6 loan shall reimburse the licensee for actual and necessary fees in
7 an amount not exceeding the amount specified in subdivision (f)
8 of Section 22202 paid in connection with the repossession of a
9 motor vehicle to a repossession agency licensed pursuant to
10 Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 7500) of Division 3 of the
11 Business and Professions Code, and actual fees in conformity with
12 Sections 26751 and 41612 of the Government Code in an amount
13 not exceeding the amount specified in those sections of the
14 Government Code.

15 (f) If the licensee denies the right to reinstatement under
16 subdivision (c) or paragraph (4) of subdivision (e), the licensee
17 shall have the burden of proof that the denial was justified in that
18 it was reasonable and made in good faith. If the licensee fails to
19 sustain the burden of proof, the licensee shall not be entitled to a
20 deficiency.