

Assembly Bill No. 1866

CHAPTER 354

An act to amend Section 76 of the Penal Code, relating to crimes.

[Approved by Governor August 3, 1995. Filed with
Secretary of State August 4, 1995.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1866, Baldwin. Crimes: threats.

(1) Existing law provides that every person who knowingly and willingly threatens the life of, or threatens serious bodily harm to, specified public officials, or the staff or family of those officials, is guilty of a public offense, punishable as specified.

This bill would add Deputy Commissioners of the Board of Prison Terms, and the staff or family of those commissioners, to the list of persons to which those provisions apply, and would require a threat to directly relate to the official duties of the deputy commissioner or his or her staff in order to constitute a public offense under those provisions.

The bill would impose a state-mandated local program by creating new crimes.

(2) 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.

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

SECTION 1. Section 76 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

76. (a) Every person who knowingly and willingly threatens the life of, or threatens serious bodily harm to, any elected public official, county public defender, county clerk, exempt appointee of the Governor, judge, or Deputy Commissioner of the Board of Prison Terms, or the staff or immediate family of any elected public official, county public defender, county clerk, exempt appointee of the Governor, judge, or Deputy Commissioner of the Board of Prison Terms, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, and the apparent ability to carry out that threat by any means, is guilty of a public offense, punishable as follows:

(1) Upon a first conviction, the offense is punishable by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in the



state prison, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(2) If the person has been convicted previously of violating this section, the previous conviction shall be charged in the accusatory pleading, and if the previous conviction is found to be true by the jury upon a jury trial, or by the court upon a court trial, or is admitted by the defendant, the offense is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison.

(b) (1) Any law enforcement agency which has knowledge of a violation of this section shall immediately report that information to the California Department of Justice.

(2) In addition to the reporting requirement imposed by paragraph (1), if a violation of this section occurs that involves a constitutional officer of the state, a Member of the Legislature, or a member of the judiciary, the law enforcement agency which has knowledge of the violation shall immediately report that information to the California State Police.

(c) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) “Apparent ability to carry out that threat” includes the ability to fulfill the threat at some future date when the person making the threat is an incarcerated prisoner with a stated release date.

(2) “Serious bodily harm” includes serious physical injury or serious traumatic condition.

(3) “Immediate family” means a spouse, parent, or child, or anyone who has regularly resided in the household for the past six months.

(4) “Staff of a judge” means court officers and employees.

(5) “Threat” means a verbal or written threat or a threat implied by a pattern of conduct or a combination of verbal or written statements and conduct made with the intent and the apparent ability to carry out the threat so as to cause the person who is the target of the threat to reasonably fear for his or her safety or the safety of his or her immediate family.

(d) As for threats against staff, the threat must relate directly to the official duties of the staff of the elected public official, county public defender, county clerk, exempt appointee of the Governor, judge, or Deputy Commissioner of the Board of Prison Terms in order to constitute a public offense under this section.

(e) A threat must relate directly to the official duties of a Deputy Commissioner of the Board of Prison Terms in order to constitute a public offense under this section.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime



or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

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