

Assembly Bill No. 2759

Passed the Assembly August 31, 1996

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 22, 1996

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this ____ day
of _____, 1996, at ____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

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CHAPTER ____

An act to amend Sections 21627, 21638.5, 21641, 21642, and 21647 of, and to add Section 21628.1 to, the Business and Professions Code, to amend Sections 21000, 21301, and 21304 of, and to add Sections 21300.1, 21301.1, and 21307 to, the Financial Code, and to amend Section 484.1 of the Penal Code, relating to tangible personal property.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2759, Burton. Tangible personal property.

Existing law provides a comprehensive scheme relative to regulation of tangible personal property in the possession of a pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer.

This bill would, among other things, do all of the following:

(1) Specify that tangible personal property received in pledge as security for a loan by a pawnbroker includes motor vehicles.

(2) Delete requirement of a transaction report where acquisition of the same property from the same customer has been submitted within the preceding 12 months.

(3) Provide that it is unlawful to act as, or represent oneself as a pawnbroker unless licensed, as specified.

(4) Provide that it is unlawful for any person to advertise services as a pawnbroker unless a license number is clearly displayed in the advertisement. A violation of this provision would be a misdemeanor. In creating a new crime the bill would thus impose a state-mandated local program.

(5) Specify alternatives to the posting of a surety bond as a condition precedent to licensure as a pawnbroker.

(6) Provide that any violation of provisions relating to licensure of pawnbrokers under circumstances where the person knows or should have known that a violation was being committed is a misdemeanor. In creating new crimes this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.



(7) Provide that upon the setting of a court hearing date for sentencing of a person convicted of specified crimes the probation officer, if one is assigned, must notify the pawnbroker or secondhand dealer or coin dealer of the time and place of the hearing. In enacting this requirement the bill would impose a new duty upon a local government official and create a state-mandated local program.

(8) This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 21641 of the Business and Professions Code, proposed by SB 1374, to be operative only if SB 1374 and this bill are both chaptered and become effective January 1, 1997, and this bill is chaptered last.

(9) This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 484.1 of the Penal Code, proposed by AB 2898, to be operative only if AB 2898 and this bill are both chaptered and become effective January 1, 1997, and this bill is chaptered last.

(10) 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, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21627 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:



21627. (a) As used in this article, “tangible personal property” includes, but is not limited to, all secondhand tangible personal property which bears a serial number or personalized initials or inscription or which, at the time it is acquired by the secondhand dealer, bears evidence of having had a serial number or personalized initials or inscription.

(b) “Tangible personal property” also includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) All tangible personal property, new or used, including motor vehicles, received in pledge as security for a loan by a pawnbroker.

(2) All tangible personal property that bears a serial number or personalized initials or inscription which is purchased by a secondhand dealer or a pawnbroker or which, at the time of such purchase, bears evidence of having had a serial number or personalized initials or inscription.

(3) All personal property commonly sold by secondhand dealers which statistically is found through crime reports to the Attorney General to constitute a significant class of stolen goods. A list of such personal property shall be supplied by the Attorney General to all local law enforcement agencies. Such list shall be reviewed periodically by the Attorney General to insure that it addresses current problems with stolen goods.

(c) As used in this article, “tangible personal property” does not include any new goods or merchandise purchased from a bona fide manufacturer or distributor or wholesaler of such new goods or merchandise by a secondhand dealer. For the purposes of this article, however, a secondhand dealer shall retain for one year from the date of purchase, and shall make available for inspection by any law enforcement officer, any receipt, invoice, bill of sale or other evidence of purchase of such new goods or merchandise.

(d) As used in this article, “tangible personal property” does not include coins, monetized bullion, or commercial grade ingots of gold, silver, or other precious metals. “Commercial grade ingots” means 0.99 fine ingots



of gold, silver, or platinum, or 0.925 fine sterling silver art bars and medallions, provided that the ingots, art bars, and medallions are marked by the refiner or fabricator as to their assay fineness.

SEC. 2. Section 21628.1 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

21628.1. Notwithstanding Section 21628, except for firearms, submission of transaction reports are not required to be submitted to the local law enforcement agency if the report of an acquisition of the same property from the same customer has been submitted within the preceding 12 months, except when submission of the reports is specifically requested in writing by the local licensing authority.

SEC. 3. Section 21638.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

21638.5. Sections 21636, 21637, and 21638, insofar as they apply to holding periods for personal property, are not applicable to personal property pledged to a pawnbroker with respect to the redemption of personal property by the pledgor.

SEC. 4. Section 21641 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

21641. (a) The chief of police, the sheriff or, where appropriate, the police commission, shall accept an application for and grant a license permitting the licensee to engage in the business of secondhand dealer, as defined in Section 21626, to an applicant who has not been convicted of an attempt to receive stolen property or any other offense involving stolen property. Prior to the granting of a license, the licensing authority shall submit the application to the Department of Justice. If the Department of Justice does not comment on the application within 30 days thereafter, the licensing authority may grant the applicant a license. All forms for application and licensure, and license renewal, shall be prescribed and provided by the Department of Justice. A fee may be charged to the applicant as specified by the Department of Justice and the local licensing authority for processing the initial license application.



(b) For the purposes of this section, “convicted” means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), no person shall be denied a secondhand dealer’s license solely on the grounds that he or she violated any provision contained in Article 4 (commencing with Section 21625) or Article 5 (commencing with Section 21650) of this chapter, or any provision contained in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 21200) of Division 8 of the Financial Code, unless the violation demonstrates a pattern of conduct.

SEC. 4.1. Section 21641 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

21641. (a) The chief of police, the sheriff or, where appropriate, the police commission, shall accept an application for and grant a license permitting the licensee to engage in the business of secondhand dealer, as defined in Section 21626, to an applicant who has not been convicted of an attempt to receive stolen property or any other offense involving stolen property. Prior to the granting of a license, the licensing authority shall submit the application to the Department of Justice. If the Department of Justice does not comment on the application within 30 days thereafter, the licensing authority may grant the applicant a license. All forms for application and licensure, and license renewal, shall be prescribed and provided by the Department of Justice. A fee may be charged to the applicant as specified by the Department of Justice for processing the initial license application and the local licensing authority.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “convicted” means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), no person shall be denied a secondhand dealer’s license solely on the grounds that he or she violated any provision contained in Article 4 (commencing with Section 21625) or Article 5 (commencing with Section 21650) of this chapter, or any provision contained in Chapter 2



(commencing with Section 21200) of Division 8 of the Financial Code, unless the violation demonstrates a pattern of conduct.

(d) Any person licensed as a firearms dealer pursuant to Section 12071 of the Penal Code, who is conducting business at gun shows or events pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 12071 of the Penal Code, and who has a valid secondhand dealer license granted by the appropriate local authorities in the jurisdiction where the firearms dealer license has been granted, shall be authorized to conduct business as a secondhand dealer at any gun show or event, as defined in Section 178.100 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or its successor, without regard to the jurisdiction within this state that issued the secondhand dealer license pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section. No additional fees or separate secondhand dealer license shall be required by any agency having jurisdiction over the locality where the gun show or event is conducted. However, the person shall otherwise be subject to, and comply with, the requirements of this article when he or she acts as a secondhand dealer at the gun show or event to the same extent as if he or she were licensed as a secondhand dealer in the jurisdiction in which the gun show or event is being conducted.

SEC. 5. Section 21642 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

21642. (a) A license granted pursuant to Section 21641 shall be renewable the second year from the date of issue, and every other year thereafter, upon the filing of a renewal application and the payment of a license renewal fee specified by the licensing authority. The Department of Justice may also charge a fee of not more than twelve dollars (\$12) but not to exceed the actual processing costs of the department. After the department establishes a fee sufficient to reimburse the department for processing costs, the fee charged shall increase at a rate not to exceed the legislatively approved annual cost-of-living adjustments for the department's budget. The licensing authority shall collect the fee and transmit



the fee and a copy of the renewed license to the Department of Justice.

(b) The license shall be subject to forfeiture by the licensing authority and the licensee's activities as a secondhand dealer shall be subject to being enjoined pursuant to Section 21646 for breach of any of the following conditions:

(1) The business shall be carried on only at the location designated on the license. The license shall designate all locations where property belonging to the business is stored. Property of the business may be stored at locations not designated on the license only with the written consent of the local licensing authority.

(2) The license or a copy thereof, certified by the licensing authority, shall be displayed on the premises in plain view of the public.

(3) The licensee shall not engage in any act which the licensee knows to be in violation of this article.

(4) The licensee shall not be convicted of an attempt to receive stolen property or any other offense involving stolen property. For the purposes of this paragraph, "convicted" means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which the chief of police, the sheriff or, where appropriate, the police commission, is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), no person shall have his or her renewal application for a secondhand dealer's license denied, nor shall his or her secondhand dealer's license be forfeited solely on the grounds that he or she violated any provision contained in Article 4 (commencing with Section 21625) or Article 5 (commencing with Section 21650) of this chapter, or any provision contained in Chapter 2 (commencing with



Section 21200) of Division 8 of the Financial Code, unless the violation demonstrates a pattern of conduct.

SEC. 6. Section 21647 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

21647. (a) Whenever any peace officer has probable cause to believe that property, except coins, monetized bullion, or “commercial grade ingots” as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 21627, in the possession of a pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer is stolen, the peace officer may place a hold on the property for a period not to exceed 90 days. When a peace officer places a hold on the property, the peace officer shall give the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer a written notice at the time the hold is placed, describing the item or items to be held. During that period the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer shall not release or dispose of the property, except pursuant to a court order or upon receipt of a written authorization signed by any peace officer who is a member of the law enforcement agency of which the peace officer placing the hold on the property is a member. A pawnbroker, secondhand property dealer, or coin dealer shall not be subject to civil liability for compliance with this section.

(b) Whenever property that is in the possession of a pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer, whether or not the property has been placed on hold, is required by a peace officer in a criminal investigation, the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer, upon reasonable notice, shall produce the property at reasonable times and places or may deliver the property to the peace officer upon the request of any peace officer.

(c) Whenever a law enforcement agency has knowledge that property in the possession of a pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer has been reported as lost or stolen, the law enforcement agency shall notify in writing the person who reported the property as lost or stolen of the following:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer who reported the acquisition of the property.



(2) That the law neither requires nor prohibits payment of a fee or any other condition in return for the surrender of the property, except that when the person who reported the property lost or stolen does not choose to participate in the prosecution of an identified alleged thief, the person shall pay the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer the “out-of-pocket” expenses paid in the acquisition of the property in return for the surrender of the property.

(3) That if the person who reported the property as lost or stolen takes no action to recover the property from the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer within 60 days of the mailing of the notice, the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer may treat the property as other property received in the ordinary course of business. During the 60-day notice period, the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer may not release the property to any other person.

(4) That a copy of the notice, with the address of the person who reported the property as lost or stolen deleted, will be mailed to the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer who is in possession of the property.

(d) When property that is in the possession of a pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer is subject to a hold as provided in subdivision (a), and the property is no longer required for the purpose of a criminal investigation, the law enforcement agency that placed the hold on the property shall release the hold on the property. When the law enforcement agency has knowledge that the property has been reported lost or stolen, the law enforcement agency shall then make notification to the person who reported the property as lost or stolen pursuant to subdivision (c).

(e) If a pledgor seeks to redeem property that is subject to a hold, the pawnbroker shall advise the pledgor of the name of the peace officer who placed the hold on the property and the name of the law enforcement agency of which the officer is a member. If the property is not required to be held pursuant to a criminal prosecution the hold shall be released.



(f) Whenever information regarding allegedly lost or stolen property is entered into the Department of Justice automated property system or automated firearms system, and the property is thereafter identified and found to be in the possession of a pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer, and the property is thereafter placed on a hold pursuant to this section and the hold, including any additional hold, is allowed to lapse, or 60 days elapse following the delivery of the notice required to be given by this section to the person who reported the property to be lost or stolen without a claim being made by that person, whichever is later, the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer may mail under a Certificate of Mailing issued by the United States Post Office, addressed to the law enforcement agency that placed the property on hold, a written request to delete the property listing from the Department of Justice automated property system or automated firearms system, as is applicable. Within 30 days after the request has been mailed, the law enforcement agency shall either cause the property listing to be deleted as requested or place a hold on the property. If no law enforcement agency takes any further action with respect to the property within 45 days after the mailing of the request, the pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, or coin dealer may presume that the property listing has been deleted as requested and may thereafter deal with the property accordingly, and shall not be subject to liability arising from the failure of the removal of the property listing from the Department of Justice automated property system or automated firearms system.

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the authority of a peace officer to seize property pursuant to any other provision of statutory or case law.

SEC. 7. Section 21000 of the Financial Code is amended to read:

21000. Every person engaged in the business of receiving goods, including motor vehicles, in pledge as



security for a loan is a pawnbroker within the meaning of this division.

SEC. 8. Section 21300.1 is added to the Financial Code, to read:

21300.1. It is unlawful for any person who is not duly licensed under this section to act as a pawnbroker or represent himself, herself, or a business entity to be a pawnbroker or a pawnbrokerage business entity.

SEC. 9. Section 21301 of the Financial Code is amended to read:

21301. (a) A license granted pursuant to Section 21300 shall be renewable the second year from the date of issue, and every other year thereafter, upon the filing of a renewal application and compliance with the requirements of Section 21303. The Department of Justice and the chief of police, the sheriff, or where appropriate, the police commission may charge a fee for the license renewal not to exceed the actual processing costs. The licensing authority shall collect the fee and transmit the fee and a copy of the renewed license to the Department of Justice.

(b) The license shall be subject to forfeiture by the licensing authority, and the licensee's activities as a pawnbroker shall be subject to being enjoined pursuant to Section 21302, for breach of any of the following conditions:

(1) The business shall be carried on only at the location designated on the license. The license shall designate all locations where property belonging to the business is stored. Property of the business may be stored at locations not designated on the license only with the written consent of the local licensing authority.

(2) The license or a copy thereof, certified by the licensing authority, shall be displayed on the premises in plain view of the public.

(3) The licensee shall not engage in any act which the licensee knows to be in violation of this article.

(4) The licensee shall not be convicted of an attempt to receive stolen property or other offense involving stolen property. For the purposes of this paragraph,



“convicted” means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea or nolo contendere. Any action which the chief of police, the sheriff, or, where appropriate, the police commission, is permitted to take following such a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), no person shall have his or her renewal application for a pawnbroker’s license denied, nor shall his or her pawnbroker’s license be forfeited solely on the grounds that he or she violated any provision contained in Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 21000) or Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 21200) of this division or Article 4 (commencing with Section 21625) or Article 5 (commencing with Section 21650) of Chapter 9 of Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code unless the violation demonstrates a pattern of conduct.

SEC. 10. Section 21301.1 is added to the Financial Code, to read:

21301.1. It is unlawful for any person to advertise his or her services as a pawnbroker, or to use any words or parts of words in any advertisements that connote a transaction involving the taking of tangible personal property as security for a loan unless the pawnbroker’s license number is clearly displayed in the advertisement.

SEC. 11. Section 21304 of the Financial Code is amended to read:

21304. (a) As a condition precedent to the issuing of a pawnbroker’s license, the applicant shall file with the issuing authority a financial statement confirming that the applicant has at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the form of liquid assets readily available for use in each licensed business for which the application is made, not including real property or in the absence of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), an applicant may post a nonrevocable surety bond in the amount of one



hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or the applicant may, in lieu of posting a surety bond, deposit money, certificates, accounts, bonds, or notes, as provided in Section 995.710 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The financial statement shall be filed by the applicant under penalty of perjury and signed by a California certified public accountant verifying that he or she has reviewed the financial statement.

(b) This section is not applicable to any person holding a secondhand dealers license pursuant to Section 21641 or 21642 of the Business and Professions Code and who is actively engaged as a pawnbroker on the effective date of this section.

SEC. 12. Section 21307 is added to the Financial Code, to read:

21307. Except as otherwise specifically provided, the violation of any provision of this chapter under circumstances where a person knows or should have known that a violation was being committed is a misdemeanor.

SEC. 13. Section 484.1 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

484.1. (a) Any person who knowingly gives false information or provides false verification as to the person's true identity or as to the person's ownership interest in property or the person's authority to sell property in order to receive money or other valuable consideration from a pawnbroker or secondhand dealer and who receives money or other valuable consideration from the pawnbroker or secondhand dealer is guilty of theft.

(b) Upon conviction of the offense described in subdivision (a), the court may require, in addition to any sentence or fine imposed, that the defendant make restitution to the pawnbroker or secondhand dealer in an amount not exceeding the actual losses sustained pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (c) of Section 13967 of the Government Code, if the defendant is denied probation, or Section 1203.04 of the Penal Code, if the defendant is granted probation.



(c) Upon the setting of a court hearing date for sentencing of any person convicted under this section, the probation officer, if one is assigned, shall notify the pawnbroker or secondhand dealer or coin dealer of the time and place of the hearing.

SEC. 14. Section 484.1 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

484.1. (a) Any person who knowingly gives false information or provides false verification as to the person's true identity or as to the person's ownership interest in property or the person's authority to sell property in order to receive money or other valuable consideration from a pawnbroker or secondhand dealer and who receives money or other valuable consideration from the pawnbroker or secondhand dealer is guilty of theft.

(b) Upon conviction of the offense described in subdivision (a), the court may require, in addition to any sentence or fine imposed, that the defendant make restitution to the pawnbroker or secondhand dealer in an amount not exceeding the actual losses sustained pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (c) of Section 13967, as operative on or before September 28, 1994, of the Government Code, if the defendant is denied probation, or Section 1203.04, as operative on or before August 2, 1995, if the defendant is granted probation or Section 1202.4.

(c) Upon the setting of a court hearing date for sentencing of any person convicted under this section, the probation officer, if one is assigned, shall notify the pawnbroker or secondhand dealer or coin dealer of the time and place of the hearing.

SEC. 15. Section 4.1 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 21641 of the Business and Professions Code proposed by both this bill and SB 1374. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 1997, (2) each bill amends Section 21641 of the Business and Professions Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after SB 1374,



in which case Section 4 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 16. Section 14 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 484.1 of the Penal Code proposed by both this bill and AB 2898. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 1997, (2) each bill amends Section 484.1 of the Penal Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after AB 2898, in which case Section 13 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 17. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district because in that regard 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.

However, notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.

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.



Approved _____, 1996

Governor

