

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 6, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2706**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Feuer**

February 22, 2008

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An act to amend Section 12020.1 of the Penal Code, relating to dangerous weapons.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2706, as amended, Feuer. Dangerous weapons.

Existing law provides that any person who commercially manufactures or causes to be commercially manufactured, or who knowingly imports into the state for commercial sale, keeps for commercial sale, or offers or exposes for commercial sale, any hard plastic knuckles, as defined, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This bill would recast "hard plastic knuckles" for this purpose as "composite knuckles" and also prohibit their possession. *This bill would also include "hard wooden knuckles," as defined, within this prohibition.*

By expanding the scope of an existing 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 12020.1 of the Penal Code is amended  
 2 to read:  
 3 12020.1. Any person in this state who possesses, commercially  
 4 manufactures, or causes to be commercially manufactured, or who  
 5 knowingly imports into the state for commercial sale, keeps for  
 6 commercial sale, or offers or exposes for commercial sale, any  
 7 composite knuckles *or hard wooden knuckles* is guilty of a  
 8 misdemeanor. As used in this section, “composite knuckles” means  
 9 any device or instrument made wholly or partially of composite  
 10 materials other than a medically prescribed prosthetic that is not  
 11 a metal knuckle as defined in paragraph (7) of subdivision (c) of  
 12 Section 12020, that is worn for purposes of offense or defense in  
 13 or on the hand, and that either protects the wearer’s hand while  
 14 striking a blow or increases the force of impact from the blow or  
 15 injury to the individual receiving the blow. *As used in this section,*  
 16 *“hard wooden knuckles” means any device or instrument made*  
 17 *wholly or partially of wood or paper products that is not a metal*  
 18 *knuckle as defined in paragraph (7) of subdivision (c) of Section*  
 19 *12020, that is worn for purposes of offense or defense in or on the*  
 20 *hand, and that either protects the wearer’s hand while striking a*  
 21 *blow or increases the force of impact from the blow or injury to*  
 22 *the individual receiving the blow. The composite materials, wood,*  
 23 *or paper products contained in the device may help support the*  
 24 *hand or fist, provide a shield to protect it, or consist of surfaces,*  
 25 *edges, ridges, points, projections, or studs that would contact the*  
 26 *individual receiving a blow.*  
 27 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
 28 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
 29 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
 30 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
 31 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
 32 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
 33 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within

1 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
2 Constitution.

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