

Assembly Bill No. 1753

CHAPTER 577

An act to amend Sections 330a, 330b, and 330.1 of the Penal Code, relating to slot machines.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2010. Filed with
Secretary of State September 30, 2010.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1753, Hall. Slot machines.

Existing law, subject to exceptions, generally prohibits the possession and use of a "slot machine or device" as defined, and prohibits certain other acts and transactions pertaining to slot machines or devices. Existing law provides varying definitions of "slot machine or device" for these purposes. Violations of these provisions are punishable by varying misdemeanor penalties.

This bill would increase those misdemeanor penalties to provide that a first offense under these provisions would be punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding 6 months, or by both that fine and imprisonment, that a 2nd offense would be punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding 6 months, or by both that fine and imprisonment, and that a 3rd or subsequent offense would be punishable by a fine of not less than \$10,000, nor more than \$25,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. The bill would also provide that if the offense involved more than one machine or more than one location, an additional fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 would be imposed per machine and per location.

By increasing the penalties for existing crimes, 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.

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

SECTION 1. Section 330a of the Penal Code is amended to read:

330a. (a) Every person, who has in his or her possession or under his or her control, either as owner, lessee, agent, employee, mortgagee, or

otherwise, or who permits to be placed, maintained, or kept in any room, space, inclosure, or building owned, leased, or occupied by him or her, or under his or her management or control, any slot or card machine, contrivance, appliance or mechanical device, upon the result of action of which money or other valuable thing is staked or hazarded, and which is operated, or played, by placing or depositing therein any coins, checks, slugs, balls, or other articles or device, or in any other manner and by means whereof, or as a result of the operation of which any merchandise, money, representative or articles of value, checks, or tokens, redeemable in or exchangeable for money or any other thing of value, is won or lost, or taken from or obtained from the machine, when the result of action or operation of the machine, contrivance, appliance, or mechanical device is dependent upon hazard or chance, and every person, who has in his or her possession or under his or her control, either as owner, lessee, agent, employee, mortgagee, or otherwise, or who permits to be placed, maintained, or kept in any room, space, inclosure, or building owned, leased, or occupied by him or her, or under his or her management or control, any card dice, or any dice having more than six faces or bases each, upon the result of action of which any money or other valuable thing is staked or hazarded, or as a result of the operation of which any merchandise, money, representative or article of value, check or token, redeemable in or exchangeable for money or any other thing of value, is won or lost or taken, when the result of action or operation of the dice is dependent upon hazard or chance, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) A first violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(c) A second offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(d) A third or subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(e) If the offense involved more than one machine or more than one location, an additional fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be imposed per machine and per location.

SEC. 2. Section 330b of the Penal Code is amended to read:

330b. (a) It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, repair, own, store, possess, sell, rent, lease, let on shares, lend or give away, transport, or expose for sale or lease, or to offer to repair, sell, rent, lease, let on shares, lend or give away, or permit the operation, placement, maintenance, or keeping of, in any place, room, space, or building owned, leased, or occupied,

managed, or controlled by that person, any slot machine or device, as defined in this section.

It is unlawful for any person to make or to permit the making of an agreement with another person regarding any slot machine or device, by which the user of the slot machine or device, as a result of the element of hazard or chance or other unpredictable outcome, may become entitled to receive money, credit, allowance, or other thing of value or additional chance or right to use the slot machine or device, or to receive any check, slug, token, or memorandum entitling the holder to receive money, credit, allowance, or other thing of value.

(b) The limitations of subdivision (a), insofar as they relate to owning, storing, possessing, or transporting any slot machine or device, do not apply to any slot machine or device located upon or being transported by any vessel regularly operated and engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, so long as the slot machine or device is located in a locked compartment of the vessel, is not accessible for use, and is not used or operated within the territorial jurisdiction of this state.

(c) The limitations of subdivision (a) do not apply to a manufacturer's business activities that are conducted in accordance with the terms of a license issued by a tribal gaming agency pursuant to the tribal-state gaming compacts entered into in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 1166 to 1168, inclusive, and 25 U.S.C. Sec. 2701 et seq.).

(d) For purposes of this section, "slot machine or device" means a machine, apparatus, or device that is adapted, or may readily be converted, for use in a way that, as a result of the insertion of any piece of money or coin or other object, or by any other means, the machine or device is caused to operate or may be operated, and by reason of any element of hazard or chance or of other outcome of operation unpredictable by him or her, the user may receive or become entitled to receive any piece of money, credit, allowance, or thing of value, or additional chance or right to use the slot machine or device, or any check, slug, token, or memorandum, whether of value or otherwise, which may be exchanged for any money, credit, allowance, or thing of value, or which may be given in trade, irrespective of whether it may, apart from any element of hazard or chance or unpredictable outcome of operation, also sell, deliver, or present some merchandise, indication of weight, entertainment, or other thing of value.

(e) Every person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(1) A first violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(2) A second offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(3) A third or subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(4) If the offense involved more than one machine or more than one location, an additional fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be imposed per machine and per location.

(f) Pinball and other amusement machines or devices, which are predominantly games of skill, whether affording the opportunity of additional chances or free plays or not, are not included within the term slot machine or device, as defined in this section.

SEC. 3. Section 330.1 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

330.1. (a) Every person who manufactures, owns, stores, keeps, possesses, sells, rents, leases, lets on shares, lends or gives away, transports, or exposes for sale or lease, or offers to sell, rent, lease, let on shares, lend or give away or who permits the operation of or permits to be placed, maintained, used, or kept in any room, space, or building owned, leased, or occupied by him or her or under his or her management or control, any slot machine or device as hereinafter defined, and every person who makes or permits to be made with any person any agreement with reference to any slot machine or device as hereinafter defined, pursuant to which agreement the user thereof, as a result of any element of hazard or chance, may become entitled to receive anything of value or additional chance or right to use that slot machine or device, or to receive any check, slug, token, or memorandum, whether of value or otherwise, entitling the holder to receive anything of value, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) A first violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(c) A second offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(d) A third or subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(e) If the offense involved more than one machine or more than one location, an additional fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be imposed per machine and per location.

(f) A slot machine or device within the meaning of Sections 330.1 to 330.5, inclusive, of this code is one that is, or may be, used or operated in such a way that, as a result of the insertion of any piece of money or coin or other object the machine or device is caused to operate or may be operated or played, mechanically, electrically, automatically or manually, and by

reason of any element of hazard or chance, the user may receive or become entitled to receive anything of value or any check, slug, token, or memorandum, whether of value or otherwise, which may be given in trade, or the user may secure additional chances or rights to use such machine or device, irrespective of whether it may, apart from any element of hazard or chance, also sell, deliver or present some merchandise, indication of weight, entertainment or other thing of value.

SEC. 4. 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.