

Memorandum

TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

FROM: Paul Joseph
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: LAW CHANGES FOR 2026

DATE: January 2, 2026

Memo #2026-001

INFORMATION

The following is a summary of relevant law changes and additions for the year 2026, as referenced in the [California District Attorneys Association – 2025 Legislative Digest \(link\)](#). Officers should review the complete code sections to ensure all elements are met prior to taking any enforcement action under the new provisions. Unless otherwise indicated, all the following law changes go into effect January 1, 2026.

CIVIL CODE

<p>C.C. 1708.86 (Amended) (AB 621) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Deepfake pornography - Existing law in Civil C. 1708.86 grants a depicted individual a cause of action against a person who creates/discloses deepfake pornography in their likeness without their consent. AB 621 amends Civil C. 1708.86 in several ways, including adding a definition of “digitized sexually explicit materials,” addressing persons who own, operate, or control deepfake pornography services, and increasing the maximum damages. Adds that a public prosecutor may bring a civil action to enforce this section, and defines public prosecutor as a district attorney, city attorney, county counsel, city or county prosecutor, or the Attorney General</p>
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HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

<p>H&S 11006.5 H&S 11018 B&P 26001 B&P 26002 etc. (New, Amended, Repealed) (AB 8) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Cannabinoids: industrial hemp - Amends and adds numerous sections relating to cannabis in the Business & Professions Code, Health & Safety Code, and Revenue & Taxation Code. Makes synthetic cannabis products and inhalable cannabis products containing cannabinoids derived from hemp illegal. Integrates products containing concentrated cannabinoids derived from hemp, other than CBD isolate, into the state’s licensed and regulated cannabis supply chain. Aside from a pure CBD isolate, all other products would fall under the definition of a cannabis product.</p>
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GOVERNMENT CODE

<p>G.C. 8669.3 G.C. 8669.4 (Amended) (SB 459) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Peace officers: confidential communications/exceptions – group support services - Expands the definition of “confidential communication” for purposes of the Law Enforcement Peer Support (LEPS) and Crisis Referral Program to include information transmitted between law enforcement personnel recipients of group peer support services while a peer support team member or mental health professional provides group peer support services to those recipients. Expands the right of law enforcement personnel to refuse to disclose certain communications made while participating in peer support programs. Clarifies that, notwithstanding the protection provided by LEPS, amends Gov’t C. 8669.4 to add juvenile delinquency proceedings to the list of circumstances (e.g., criminal cases; disclosure is necessary to prevent a death, substantial bodily harm, or the commission of a crime) when a confidential communication made by a law enforcement officer in a peer support situation may be disclosed</p>
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PENAL CODE

<p>P.C. 466 (Amended) (AB 486) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Burglary tools - Amends P.C. 466 to add “key programming device,” “key duplicating device,” and “signal extender” to the list of items it is illegal to possess with the intent feloniously to break or enter a building, vehicle, railroad card, aircraft, or vessel. Also adds definitions of these new items.</p>
<p>P.C. 647 P.C. 647.5 P.C. 653.25 P.C. 134849 (New, Amended) (AB 379) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Crimes: prostitution - Amends P.C. 647(l) to make the solicitation of a minor who is more than three years younger than the defendant a felony-misdemeanor crime (a “wobbler”). A second violation is a non-alternative felony. Retains as a wobbler (and as a non-alternative felony for a second conviction) the solicitation of a minor under age 16, and the solicitation of a minor under age 18 who was the victim of human trafficking. Requires that a defendant granted probation be ordered to complete an education program about human trafficking. Requires a convicted defendant to pay a fine of \$1,000 to the Survivors Support Fund (see new P.C. 647.5, below) if compensation, money, or anything of value was paid. Adds new P.C. 647.5 to require the California Victim Compensation Board to establish a grant program for community-based organizations that provide services to victims of sex trafficking and exploitation. Establishes the Survivor Support Fund in the State Treasury. Adds new P.C. 653.25, which is the new infraction crime of loitering in a public place with the intent to purchase commercial sex. Punishable by a \$1,000 fine. [NOTE: This new crime is not labeled as an infraction or as a misdemeanor. It appears to be an infraction crime because it is punishable by a fine and because it does not specify any jail time or that it is a misdemeanor; however, subdivision (b) says that the fine is “in addition to any other punishment.”] New P.C. 134849 establishes in the Office of Emergency Services a program of financial and technical assistance for district attorney offices for the prosecution of human trafficking crimes, defined as P.C. 236.1 crimes and P.C. 647(l) crimes. Requires vertical prosecution. Provides that up to 11 district attorney offices are to be awarded funds.</p>

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<p>P.C. 16880 P.C. 16885 P.C. 17015 P.C. 25595 P.C. 27595 P.C. 32103 (New, Amended) (AB 1127) (Effective 1/1/26 & 7/1/26)</p>	<p>Firearms: converter pistols - Prohibits a licensed firearms dealer to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified. Amends Civil C. 3273.5 by (1) amending definition of “firearm accessory” to include attachments or devices that increase rate of fire or decrease time to reload; that turn a firearm into an assault weapon; and “any other device, tool, kit, part, or parts set that is clearly designed and intended for use in manufacturing firearms;” (2) amending definition of “firearm manufacturing machine” to include machines reasonable designed or intended to be used to manufacture or produce firearms, firearm components, or firearm accessories. [Previously only applied to machines to produce firearms]; and (3) amending definition of “reasonable controls” to include controls designed to “[p]revent the installation and use of a pistol converter ... with a firearm.” Amends definition of machinegun in P.C. 16880 to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter. Adds P.C. 16885 to define “machinegun-convertible pistol” as any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools into a machinegun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter, as specified, and adds P.C. 17015 to define “pistol converter” as any device or instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, replaces the backplate and interferes with the trigger mechanism and thereby enables the pistol to shoot automatically more than one shot by a single function of the trigger. Adds P.C. 27595 (effective July 1, 2026) to make a violation of these provisions punishable by a fine, a second violation punishable by a fine that may result in a suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists maintained by DOJ, and a third violation punishable as a misdemeanor that shall result in the revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists.</p>
<p>P.C. 270.1 (Repealed) (AB 461) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Truancy - More Help Not Less Act of 2025. Repeals P.C. 270.1, the misdemeanor crime of a parent of a chronically truant child failing to reasonably supervise and encourage school attendance.</p>
<p>P.C. 185.5 G.C. 7289 (New) (SB 627) (Effective 7/1/26)</p>	<p>Law enforcement: masks - Creates new Gov’t C. 7289 to require, by July 1, 2026, law enforcement agencies operating in California (including federal law enforcement) to maintain and publicly post a written policy on the use of facial coverings, including a policy that all sworn personnel not use a facial covering when on duty. Specifies some exceptions, such as undercover assignments and tactical operations where protective gear is required. Creates new P.C. 185.5, which is the new infraction/ misdemeanor crime (a “wobblette”) of a law enforcement officer willfully and knowingly wearing a facial covering that conceals or obscures facial identity.</p>
<p>P.C. 538d P.C. 538e P.C. 538f P.C. 538g P.C. 538h</p>	<p>Crimes - Adds new Gov’t C. 7288 to require a law enforcement agency operating in California to post a written policy on the visible identification of sworn personnel. Adds new P.C. 13653 and 13654, which address law enforcement identification. Amends false personation crimes in P.C. 538d, 538e, 538f, 538g, and 538h to expand them to false personation “by any other</p>

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<p>P.C. 1299.07 P.C. 13653 P.C. 13654 G.C. 7288 (Amended/New) (SB 805) (Effective 9/20/25)</p>	<p>means.” Also expands P.C. 538d (the false personation of a peace officer) to apply to the false personation of a law enforcement officer, which includes any federal law enforcement officer. Amends P.C. 1299.07 to prohibit a bail fugitive agent from using their position for purposes of immigration enforcement except pursuant to a judicial warrant or court order.</p>
<p>P.C. 28235 P.C. 16525 P.C. 33700 (New, Amended) (SB 704) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Firearms: firearm barrels - Adds P.C. 16525 to define “firearm barrel,” and adds P.C. 33700 which creates new misdemeanor and felony crimes related to the sale, transfer, purchase, or acquisition of a firearm barrel.</p>
<p>P.C. 29805 P.C. 29186 (New, Amended) (AB 1263) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Firearms: ghost guns - Amends P.C. 29805 to add a new subdivision (h) to provide that a person convicted on or after January 1, 2026, of a specified firearms violation (P.C. 24610, 27520, 29185, 29186, 30605, 30610, 32900, 33215, 33600) and within 10 years of the conviction owns, purchases, receives, or possesses a firearm is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and/or by a fine of up to \$1,000.</p> <p>Adds P.C. 29186 as a new misdemeanor crime of knowingly or willfully causing another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, or to knowingly or willfully aid, abet, promote, or facilitate the unlawful manufacture of firearms. [NOTE: Because P.C. 29186 simply says that “[a] violation of this section is a misdemeanor,” existing P.C. 19 controls. P.C. 19 provides that except in cases where a different punishment is prescribed, every offense declared to be a misdemeanor is punishable by up to six months in jail and/or by a fine of up to \$1,000.]</p>
<p>P.C. 422.3 (New) (SB 19) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Crimes: threats - Creates new P.C. 422.3, a felony/misdemeanor crime that prohibits willfully threatening by any means (including an image or threat posted on the internet), to commit a crime that will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or persons at a daycare, school, university, workplace, house of worship, or medical facility with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent to actually carry it out, if the threat causes a person to reasonably be in sustained fear.</p>
<p>P.C. 451.5 P.C. 463.2 P.C. 538i (New, Amended) (SB 571) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Emergencies: crimes - Authorizes the court to consider the fact, if pled and proven, that the defendant committed the crime of looting while impersonating emergency personnel as a factor in aggravation.</p> <p>Makes it a crime, punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony, for a person, other than a first responder to wear, exhibit, or use the uniform, insignia, emblem, device, label, certificate, card, or writing of a first responder with the intent of fraudulently impersonating a first responder within an area under an evacuation order, as specified. Also makes it a wobbler to impersonate a first responder on</p>

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	<p>the internet or by electronic means during an evacuation order or within 30 days of its termination for the purpose of defrauding another, as specified.</p>
<p>P.C. 636.6 (New) (SB 701) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Signal jammers - Adds P.C. 636.6, which defines “signal jammer” as a device that intentionally blocks, jams, or interferes with authorized radio or wireless communications. It provides that a person who manufactures, imports, markets, purchases, sells, or operates a signal jammer, unless authorized to do so by the Federal Communications Commission, is guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for a first offense. A second or subsequent violation is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding year, by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. A person who operates a signal jammer in conjunction with the commission of a misdemeanor or felony is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. A person who willfully or maliciously uses a signal jammer to block state or local public safety communications, and who knows or should know that using the signal jammer is likely to result in death or great bodily injury and great bodily injury or death is sustained by any person as a result of that use, is guilty of a crime, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year or pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170. A conviction under this section requires forfeiture of the signal jamming device.</p>
<p>P.C. 496a P.C. 496e B&P 21606 B&P 21609.1 (Amended) (AB 476) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Metal Theft - Requires junk dealers and recyclers to include additional information in the written record, including the time and amount paid for each sale or purchase of junk made, and the name of the employee handling the transaction. Revises the type of information required in the description of the item or items purchased or sold. Requires the statement indicating ownership or the name of the person from whom the seller obtained the junk from to be signed.</p> <p>Expands the list of materials and items subject to those provisions to include, among other things, items reasonably recognizable as streetlights and related equipment, and increases the maximum amount of the criminal fine to \$5,000.</p>
<p>P.C. 680 (Amended) (SB 733) (Effective 1/1/26)</p>	<p>Sexual assault forensic evidence: testing - Requires a sexual assault victim to be age 18 to be able to prevent medical evidence (e.g., a rape kit) from being tested. Under current law, a sexual assault victim of any age may request that evidence not be tested (which leaves young victims vulnerable to being pressured or threatened by family members or perpetrators to request that evidence not be tested). Adds that a victim who has requested that a kit not be tested may later request testing, regardless of whether a report is made to law enforcement</p>

VEHICLE CODE

V.C. 21201 V.C. 21212 (Amended) (AB 544) (Effective 1/1/26)	Electric bicycles: required equipment - Requires an electric bicycle during all hours to be equipped with a red reflector or a solid or flashing red light with a built-in reflector on the rear that is visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. Permits minors cited for not wearing a helmet to complete the electric bicycle safety course developed by CHP in lieu of paying a fine.
V.C. 21809 (Amended) (AB 390) (Effective 1/1/65)	Vehicles: highway safety - Expands Veh. C. 21809 (the “slow down, move over law”) to add highway maintenance vehicles displaying amber warning lights, and stationary vehicles displaying flashing hazard lights or another warning device, including cones, flares, or retroreflective devices.
V.C. 22651.08 (New) (AB 875) (Effective 1/1/26)	Vehicle removal - Creates new Veh. C. 22651.08 to authorize a peace officer to remove a class 3 electric bicycle being operated in violation of V.C. 21213(a), and to remove a vehicle with fewer than four wheels that does not meet the definition of an electric bicycle under specified circumstances
V.C. 5201 V.C. 5201.1 (Amended) (AB 1085) (Effective 1/1/26)	License plates: obstruction or alteration - Amends Veh. C. 5201 to prohibit a shade or tint that obstructs or impairs the reading of a license plate by an electronic device. Amends Veh. C. 5201.1 to (1) prohibit the manufacturing of a device that is intended to obscure the reading of a license plate (selling such a device was already prohibited); and (2) increase the penalty for a violation from a fine of \$250 per item sold to a fine of \$1,000 per item sold or manufactured.
V.C. 21212.5 (New) (AB 965) (Effective 1/1/26)	Vehicles: electric bicycles - Adds new Veh. C. 21212.5, which is the infraction crime of selling a class 3 electric bicycle to a person under age 16. Punishable by a fine of up to \$250.



Paul Joseph
Chief of Police