

SA2006RF0001

January 3, 2006

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Office of the Attorney General
Attention: Tricia Knight, Initiative Coordinator
1300 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RECEIVED
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INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Request for Title and Summary, Three Strikes Reform Act of 2006

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Please find enclosed a text of the proposed initiative, titled The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2006, and two checks in the amount of \$100.00 for a total of \$200.00 payable to the Department of Justice. Please return a filed, stamped copy of the initiative in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

BRIAN T. DUNN
The Cochran Firm

STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney
County of Los Angeles

cmh

Enclosures

THE THREE STRIKES REFORM ACT OF 2006

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

TO THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA:

We, the undersigned, registered, qualified voters of the State of California, residents of the afore-described County (or City and County), hereby propose amendments to Penal Code Sections 667, 667.1, and 1170.12, relating to the sentencing of individuals for serious or violent felonies who have been previously convicted of serious or violent felonies, and petition the Secretary of State to submit the same to the voters of California for their adoption or rejection at the next succeeding primary or general election or at any special statewide election held prior to that primary or general election or as otherwise provided by law. The proposed statutory initiative reads as follows:

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This initiative shall be known as may be cited as the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2006.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS

The People of the State of California do hereby find and declare that:

- (a) Proposition 184 (the "Three Strikes" law) was overwhelmingly approved in 1994 with the intent of protecting law-abiding citizens by enhancing the sentences of repeat offenders who had committed serious and/or violent felonies;
- (b) Proposition 184 did not apply exclusively to enhance the sentences for serious and/or violent felonies committed by repeat offenders with prior convictions for serious and/or violent felonies;
- (c) Proposition 184 did not establish reasonable criteria for limiting the criminal acts that would be prosecuted as second and/or third strikes;
- (d) Since its enactment, Proposition 184 has been used to enhance the sentences for thousands of crimes committed by recidivists which were not serious and/or violent offenses, at an excessive annual cost to taxpayers.

SECTION 3. PURPOSES

The People do hereby enact this measure to:

- (a) Protect the People from repeat offenders who continue to commit serious and/or violent crimes;

(b) Provide greater punishment and longer prison sentences for those who have been previously convicted of serious and/or violent felonies.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 667 OF THE PENAL CODE

(This format presents struck wording in ~~[strikeout]~~ and new wording in *[italics.]*)

Section 667 of the Penal Code is hereby amended to read:

§ 667. Habitual criminals; Enhancement; Exceptions

(a) (1) In compliance with subdivision (b) of Section 1385, any person convicted of a serious felony who previously has been convicted of a serious felony in this state or of any offense committed in another jurisdiction which includes all of the elements of any serious felony, shall receive, in addition to the sentence imposed by the court for the present offense, a five-year enhancement for each such prior conviction on charges brought and tried separately. The terms of the present offense and each enhancement shall run consecutively.

(2) This subdivision shall not be applied when the punishment imposed under other provisions of law would result in a longer term of imprisonment. There is no requirement of prior incarceration or commitment for this subdivision to apply.

(3) The Legislature may increase the length of the enhancement of sentence provided in this subdivision by a statute passed by majority vote of each house thereof.

(4) As used in this subdivision, "serious felony" means a serious felony listed in subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7.

(5) This subdivision shall not apply to a person convicted of selling, furnishing, administering, or giving, or offering to sell, furnish, administer, or give to a minor any methamphetamine-related drug or any precursors of methamphetamine unless the prior conviction was for a serious felony described in subparagraph (24) of subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7.

(b) It is the intent of the ~~Legislature~~ *People of the State of California* in enacting subdivisions (b) to (i), inclusive, to ensure longer prison sentences and greater punishment for ~~those persons~~ *previously convicted of serious and/or violent felony offenses* who commit a *new felony offense* ~~and have been previously convicted of serious and/or violent felony offenses.~~

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, if a defendant has been convicted of a felony and it has been pled and proved that the defendant has one or more prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions as defined in subdivision (d), the court shall adhere to each of the following:

(1) There shall not be an aggregate term limitation for purposes of consecutive sentencing for any subsequent felony conviction.

(2) Probation for the current offense shall not be granted, nor shall execution or imposition of the sentence be suspended for any prior offense.

(3) The length of time between the prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction and the current felony conviction shall not affect the imposition of sentence.

(4) There shall not be a commitment to any other facility other than the state prison. Diversion shall not be granted nor shall the defendant be eligible for commitment to the California Rehabilitation Center as provided in Article 2 (commencing with Section 3050) of Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(5) The total amount of credits awarded pursuant to Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 2930) of Chapter 7 of Title 1 of Part 3 shall not exceed one-fifth of the total term of imprisonment imposed and shall not accrue until the defendant is physically placed in the state prison.

(6) If there is a current conviction for more than one felony count not committed on the same occasion, and not arising from the same set of operative facts, the court shall sentence the defendant consecutively on each count pursuant to subdivision (e).

(7) If there is a current conviction for more than one serious *and/or violent* felony ~~as described in paragraph (6)~~, the court shall impose the sentence for each conviction consecutive to the sentence for any other conviction for which the defendant may be consecutively sentenced in the manner prescribed by law.

(8) Any sentence imposed pursuant to subdivision (e) will be imposed consecutive to any other sentence which the defendant is already serving, unless otherwise provided by law.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law and for the purposes of subdivisions (b) to (i), inclusive, a prior conviction of a *serious and/or violent* felony shall be defined as:

(1) Any offense defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 as a violent felony or any offense defined in subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7 as a serious felony in this state. The determination of whether a prior conviction is a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction for purposes of subdivisions (b) to (i), inclusive, shall be made upon the date of that prior conviction and is not affected by the sentence imposed unless the sentence automatically, upon the initial sentencing, converts the felony to a misdemeanor. None of the following dispositions shall affect the determination that a prior conviction is a prior *serious and/or violent* felony for purposes of subdivisions (b) to (i), inclusive:

(A) The suspension of imposition of judgment or sentence.

(B) The stay of execution of sentence.

(C) The commitment to the State Department of Health Services as a mentally disordered sex

offender following a conviction of a felony.

(D) The commitment to the California Rehabilitation Center or any other facility whose function is rehabilitative diversion from the state prison.

(2) A conviction in another jurisdiction for an offense that, if committed in California, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison ~~shall constitute a~~ ~~serious and/or violent felony shall include a~~ ~~if the prior conviction in the another jurisdiction is for an offense that includes all of the elements of the particular violent felony as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 or serious felony as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7.~~ A prior conviction of a particular *serious and/or violent* felony ~~shall include a~~ if the prior conviction in the another jurisdiction is for an offense that includes all of the elements of the particular *violent* felony as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 or *serious felony as defined in* subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7.

(3) A prior juvenile adjudication shall constitute a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction for purposes of sentence enhancement if:

(A) The juvenile was 16 years of age or older at the time he or she committed the prior offense.

(B) The prior offense is listed in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or described in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subdivision as a *serious and/or violent* felony.

(C) The juvenile was found to be a fit and proper subject to be dealt with under the juvenile court law.

(D) The juvenile was adjudged a ward of the juvenile court within the meaning of Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code because the person committed an offense listed in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or described in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subdivision as a *serious and/or violent* felony.

(e) For purposes of subdivisions (b) to (i), inclusive, and in addition to any other enhancement or punishment provisions which may apply, the following shall apply where a defendant has a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction:

(1) If a defendant has one prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction that has been pled and proved, the determinate term or minimum term for an indeterminate term shall be twice the term otherwise provided as punishment for the current *serious and/or violent* felony conviction.

(2) (A) *Except as provided in subparagraph (C), if* If a defendant has two or more prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions as defined in subdivision (d), that have been pled and proved, the term for the current felony conviction shall be an indeterminate term of life imprisonment with a minimum term of the indeterminate sentence calculated as the greater of:

(i) Three times the term otherwise provided as punishment for each current felony conviction subsequent to the two or more prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions.

(ii) Imprisonment in the state prison for 25 years.

(iii) The term determined by the court pursuant to Section 1170 for the underlying conviction, including any enhancement applicable under Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 1170) of Title 7 of Part 2, or any period prescribed by Section 190 or 3046.

(B) The indeterminate term described in subparagraph (A) shall be served consecutive to any other term of imprisonment for which a consecutive term may be imposed by law. Any other term imposed subsequent to any indeterminate term described in subparagraph (A) shall not be merged therein but shall commence at the time the person would otherwise have been released from prison.

(C) If a defendant has two or more prior serious and/or violent felony convictions as defined in subdivision (d) that have been pled and proved, and the current offense is not a felony described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of this section, the defendant shall be sentenced pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of this section, unless the prosecution pleads and proves any of the following facts:

(i) The current offense is a controlled substance charge, in which an allegation under Section 11370.4 or 11379.8 of the Health and Safety Code was admitted or found true.

(ii) The current offense is a felony sex offense, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 261.5, Section 262, or in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 290, except Sections 266, 285, 286, subdivisions (b)(1) and (e), or 288a, subdivision (b)(1).

(iii) The defendant used a firearm, or during the commission of the current offense, was armed with a firearm or deadly weapon, or engaged in conduct substantially likely to cause great bodily injury.

(iv) The defendant was previously convicted of any of the following serious and/or violent felonies:

(a) a "sexually violent offense" as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6600(b);

(b) oral copulation with a child who is under 14 years of age, and who is more than 10 years younger than he or she, or sexual penetration with another person who is under 14 years of age, and who is more than 10 years younger than he or she, as defined by Penal Code Section 289(j);

(c) a lewd and lascivious act involving a child under 14 years of age, in violation of Penal Code Section 288;

(d) any homicide offense defined in Penal Code Sections 187 through 191.5;

(e) any serious and/or violent felony offense punishable by life imprisonment.

(f) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, subdivisions (b) to (i), inclusive, shall be applied in every case in which a defendant has a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction as defined in subdivision (d). The prosecuting attorney shall plead and prove each prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction except as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The prosecuting attorney may move to dismiss or strike a prior *serious and/or violent* felony

conviction allegation in the furtherance of justice pursuant to Section 1385, or if there is insufficient evidence to prove the prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction. ~~If a~~ Upon the satisfaction of the court that there is insufficient evidence to prove the prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction, the court may dismiss or strike the allegation.

(g) Prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions shall not be used in plea bargaining as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1192.7. The prosecution shall plead and prove all known prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions and shall not enter into any agreement to strike or seek the dismissal of any prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction allegation except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (f).

(h) All references to existing statutes in subdivisions (c) to (g), inclusive, are to statutes as they existed on *November 1, 2006, or as amended by this Act.*

(i) If any provision of subdivisions (b) to (h), inclusive, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of those subdivisions which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of those subdivisions are severable.

(j) The provisions of this section shall not be amended by the Legislature except by statute passed in each house by rollcall vote entered in the journal, two-thirds of the membership concurring, or by a statute that becomes effective only when approved by the electors.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 667.1 OF THE PENAL CODE
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§ 667.1. References in Section 667 to existing statutes

Notwithstanding subdivision (h) of Section 667, for all offenses committed on or after the effective date of this act, all references to existing statutes in subdivisions (c) to (g), inclusive, of Section 667, are to those statutes as they *are amended by this act.* ~~existed on the effective date of this act, including amendments made to those statutes by this act.~~

SECTION 6. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1170.12 OF THE PENAL CODE
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§ 1170.12. Aggregate and consecutive terms for multiple convictions; Prior conviction as prior felony; Commitment and other enhancements or punishment

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a defendant has been convicted of a felony and it has been pled and proved that the defendant has one or more prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions, as defined in subdivision (b), the court shall adhere to each of the following:

(1) There shall not be an aggregate term limitation for purposes of consecutive sentencing for any subsequent felony conviction.

(2) Probation for the current offense shall not be granted, nor shall execution or imposition of the sentence be suspended for any prior offense.

(3) The length of time between the prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction and the current felony conviction shall not affect the imposition of sentence.

(4) There shall not be a commitment to any other facility other than the state prison. Diversion shall not be granted nor shall the defendant be eligible for commitment to the California Rehabilitation Center as provided in Article 2 (commencing with Section 3050) of Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(5) The total amount of credits awarded pursuant to Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 2930) of Chapter 7 of Title 1 Part 3 shall not exceed one-fifth of the total term of imprisonment imposed and shall not accrue until the defendant is physically placed in the state prison.

(6) If there is a current conviction for more than one felony count not committed on the same occasion, and not arising from the same set of operative facts, the court shall sentence the defendant consecutively on each count pursuant to this section.

(7) If there is a current conviction for more than one serious or violent felony ~~as described in paragraph (6) of this subdivision~~, the court shall impose the sentence for each conviction consecutive to the sentence for any other conviction for which the defendant may be consecutively sentenced in the manner prescribed by law.

(8) Any sentence imposed pursuant to this section will be imposed consecutive to any other sentence which the defendant is already serving, unless otherwise provided by law.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and for the purposes of this section, a prior conviction of a *serious and/or violent* felony shall be defined as:

(1) Any offense defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 as a violent felony or any offense defined in subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7 as a serious felony in this state. The determination of whether a prior conviction is a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction for purposes of this section shall be made upon the date of that prior conviction and is not affected by the sentence imposed unless the sentence automatically, upon the initial sentencing, converts the felony to a misdemeanor. None of the following dispositions shall affect the determination that a prior conviction is a prior *serious and/or violent* felony for purposes of this section:

(A) The suspension of imposition of judgment or sentence.

(B) The stay of execution of sentence.

(C) The commitment to the State Department of Health Services as a mentally disordered sex offender following a conviction of a felony.

(D) The commitment to the California Rehabilitation Center or any other facility whose function is rehabilitative diversion from the state prison.

(2) A conviction in another jurisdiction for an offense that, if committed in California, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison *shall constitute a* ~~A~~ prior conviction of a particular *serious and/or violent* felony ~~shall include a~~ *if the prior* conviction in ~~the~~ another jurisdiction *is* for an offense that includes all of the elements of the particular *violent* felony as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 or *serious felony as defined in* subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7.

(3) A prior juvenile adjudication shall constitute a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction for the purposes of sentence enhancement if:

(A) The juvenile was sixteen years of age or older at the time he or she committed the prior offense, and

(B) The prior offense is

(i) listed in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or

(ii) listed in this subdivision as a *serious and/or violent* felony, and

(C) The juvenile was found to be a fit and proper subject to be dealt with under the juvenile court law, and

(D) The juvenile was adjudged a ward of the juvenile court within the meaning of Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code because the person committed an offense listed in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code *or listed in this subdivision as a serious and/or violent felony.*

(c) For purposes of this section, and in addition to any other enhancements or punishment provisions which may apply, the following shall apply where a defendant has a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction:

(1) If a defendant has one prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction that has been pled and proved, the determinate term or minimum term for an indeterminate term shall be twice the term otherwise provided as punishment for the current *serious and/or violent* felony conviction.

(2)(A) *Except as provided in subparagraph (C), if* If a defendant has two or more prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), that have been pled and proved, the term for the current felony conviction shall be an indeterminate term of life

imprisonment with a minimum term of the indeterminate sentence calculated as the greater of

(i) three times the term otherwise provided as punishment for each current felony conviction subsequent to the two or more prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions, or

(ii) twenty-five years or

(iii) the term determined by the court pursuant to Section 1170 for the underlying conviction, including any enhancement applicable under Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 1170) of Title 7 of Part 2, or any period prescribed by Section 190 or 3046.

(B) The indeterminate term described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of this subdivision shall be served consecutive to any other term of imprisonment for which a consecutive term may be imposed by law. Any other term imposed subsequent to any indeterminate term described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of this subdivision shall not be merged therein but shall commence at the time the person would otherwise have been released from prison.

(C) If a defendant has two or more prior serious and/or violent felony convictions as defined in subdivision (b) that have been pled and proved, and the current offense is not a felony described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of this section, the defendant shall be sentenced pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of this section, unless the prosecution pleads and proves any of the following facts:

(i) The current offense is a controlled substance charge, in which an allegation under Section 11370.4 or 11379.8 of the Health and Safety Code was admitted or found true.

(ii) The current offense is a felony sex offense, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 261.5, Section 262, or in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 290, except Sections 266, 285, 286, subdivisions (b)(1) and (e), or 288a, subdivision (b)(1).

(iii) The defendant used a firearm, or during the commission of the current offense, was armed with a firearm or deadly weapon, or engaged in conduct substantially likely to cause great bodily injury.

(iv) The defendant was previously convicted of any of the following serious/and or violent felonies:

(a) a "sexually violent offense" as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6600(b);

(b) oral copulation with a child who is under 14 years of age, and who is more than 10 years younger than he or she, or sexual penetration with another person who is under 14 years of age, and who is more than 10 years younger than he or she, as defined by Penal Code Section 289(j);

(c) a lewd and lascivious act involving a child under 14 years of age, in violation of Penal Code Section 288;

(d) any homicide offense defined in Penal Code Sections 187 through 191.5;

(e) any serious and/or violent felony offense punishable by life imprisonment.

(d)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this section shall be applied in every case in which a defendant has a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction as defined in this section. The prosecuting attorney shall plead and prove each prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction except as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The prosecuting attorney may move to dismiss or strike a prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction allegation in the furtherance of justice pursuant to Section 1385, or if there is insufficient evidence to prove the prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction. ~~If~~ Upon the satisfaction of the court that there is insufficient evidence to prove the prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction, the court may dismiss or strike the allegation.

(e) Prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions shall not be used in plea bargaining, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1192.7. The prosecution shall plead and prove all known prior *serious and/or violent* felony convictions and shall not enter into any agreement to strike or seek the dismissal of any prior *serious and/or violent* felony conviction allegation except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d).

(f) If any provision of subdivisions (a) to (e), inclusive, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of those subdivisions which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of those subdivisions are severable.

(g) The provisions of this section shall not be amended by the Legislature except by statute passed in each house by rollcall vote entered in the journal, two-thirds of the membership concurring, or by a statute that becomes effective only when approved by the electors.

(h) All references to existing statutes in this Section are to the statutes as they existed on November 1, 2006, or as amended by this Act. For all offenses committed on or after the effective date of this act, all references to existing statutes in subdivisions (a) to (e), inclusive, of this Section are to those statutes as they are amended by this act. Section 1170.125 is repealed by this subdivision.

SECTION 7: RE-SENTENCING LIMITATIONS

Former Section 1170.125 is repealed and Section 1170.126 is added as follows:

The re-sentencing provisions under this Section and related Statutes are intended to apply exclusively to persons presently serving an indeterminate term of imprisonment pursuant to Penal Code Section 667(e)(2) or Penal Code Section 1170.12(c)(2), whose term would not otherwise have been an indeterminate life sentence.

(a) Subject to the exclusions and limitations set forth below in subdivisions (b) and (c), any person serving an indeterminate term of life imprisonment imposed pursuant to Penal Code Sections 667(e)(2) or 1170.12(c)(2) for conviction of a felony or felonies that is/are not classified as serious and/or violent felonies by Penal Code Sections 667.5(c) or 1192.7(c), whether by virtue

of a trial or plea, may file a petition for writ of habeas corpus within two years after the effective date of this Act before the trial court that entered the judgment of conviction in his or her case, to request re-sentencing in accordance with the provisions of Sections 667, subdivision (e)(2), and/or 1170.12, subdivision (c)(2), as those statutes have been amended.

(b) No person who is presently serving a term of imprisonment for a “second strike” conviction imposed pursuant to Penal Code Section 667(e)(1) or Penal Code Section 1170.12(c)(1), shall be eligible for re-sentencing under the provisions of this Section and its subdivisions.

(c) The petition for writ of habeas corpus referenced in subdivision (a) shall specify all the currently charged felonies that resulted in the sentence under Penal Code Sections 667(e)(2) or 1170.12(c)(2), or both, and shall also specify all of the prior convictions alleged and proved under subdivision (d) of Section 667, subdivision (b) of Section 1170.12, or both.

(d) A person who meets the requirements of subdivision (a) of this Section may request appointment of counsel by sending to the sentencing court a written request for representation by counsel to prepare a petition under this section, and for purposes of re-sentencing, trial, or retrial.

(e) If the court determines that the person filing a petition for writ of habeas corpus meets the criteria set forth in subdivision (a) of this Section, the court, in its discretion, shall re-sentence that person in accordance with the sentencing laws as amended by this act, unless another law provides for a longer sentence.

(f) Under no circumstances may re-sentencing under this Act result in the imposition of a term longer than the original sentence.

(g) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 977, a defendant petitioning for re-sentencing may waive his or her appearance in court for the re-sentencing, provided that the accusatory pleading is not amended at the re-sentencing, and that no new trial or retrial of the individual will occur. The waiver shall be in writing and signed by the defendant.

(h) If the court that originally sentenced the defendant is not available to re-sentence the defendant, the presiding judge may designate another judge to rule on the defendant’s petition.

(i) Nothing in this Section is intended to diminish or abrogate any rights or remedies otherwise available to the defendant.

(j) Nothing in this and related Sections is intended to diminish or abrogate the finality of judgments in any case not falling within the purview of this Act.

SECTION 8: LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION

This Act is an exercise of the public power of the People of the State of California for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the People of the State of California, and shall be

liberally construed to effectuate those purposes.

SECTION 9: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this Act, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application in order to effectuate the purposes of this Act. To this end, the provisions of this Act are severable.

SECTION 10: CONFLICTING MEASURES

If this measure is approved by the voters, but superseded by any other conflicting ballot measure approved by more voters at the same election, and the conflicting ballot measure is later held invalid, it is the intent of the voters that this Act shall be given the full force of law.

SECTION 11: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall become effective immediately upon its approval by the voters.

SECTION 12: AMENDMENT

This Act shall not be altered or amended except by one of the following:

- (a) By statute passed in each house of the Legislature, by roll call entered in the journal, with two-thirds of the membership and the Governor concurring, or
By statute passed in each house of the Legislature, by roll call vote entered in the journal, with a majority of the membership concurring, to be placed on the next general ballot and approved by a majority of the electors; or
- (b) By statute that becomes effective when approved by a majority of the electors.