



GOVERNOR'S REWARD PROGRAM

The California Legislature established a crime tip reward program (Penal Code § 1547). The law allows the Governor to offer a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators for certain unsolved crimes and up to \$100,000, for certain crimes against first responders or for arson upon a place of worship. The Governor may issue the reward only upon a recommendation from law enforcement officials.

How to Request a Governor's Reward

The chief law enforcement official with jurisdiction over the matter should send a written request on department letterhead to:

Office of the Governor
Attention: Office of Legal Affairs
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The request must include all of the following:

- (a) A description of the crime, including the date, investigative efforts to-date, the suspected number of perpetrators, and the victim(s).
- (b) The reason(s) the officer believes the crime would qualify under PC § 1547 for a reward (must cite the statute), and an explanation of how a reward may be helpful in bringing the perpetrator(s) to justice (i.e., show nexus between the need for a reward and the solvability of the case).
- (c) A statement regarding the position of the victim(s) or family of the victim(s) on the reward request, or a brief explanation about why such a statement could not be obtained.
- (d) Details of any noteworthy or extraordinary media attention the case has received.
- (e) The specific dollar amount requested for the reward and why that amount is appropriate.
- (f) A statement regarding whether any other reward money has been offered, and, if so, by whom and in what amount(s).
- (g) A statement of whether any confidential information is provided in the letter.
- (h) The signature of the head of the law enforcement agency (i.e., Chief of Police, Sheriff, Regional CHP Commander).

State of California

PENAL CODE

Section 1547

1547. (a) The Governor may offer a reward of not more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), payable out of the General Fund, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any of the following:

(1) Any convict who has escaped from a state prison, prison camp, prison farm, or the custody of any prison officer or employee or as provided in Section 3059 or 4530.

(2) Any person who has committed, or is charged with the commission of, an offense punishable by death.

(3) (A) Any person engaged in the robbery or hijacking of, or any attempt to rob or hijack, any person upon or in charge of, in whole or in part, any public conveyance engaged at the time in carrying passengers within this state.

(B) As used in this paragraph, "hijacking" means an unauthorized person causing, or attempting to cause, by violence or threat of violence, a public conveyance to go to an unauthorized destination.

(4) Any person who attempts to murder either in the first or second degree, assaults with a deadly weapon, or inflicts serious bodily harm upon a peace officer or firefighter who is acting in the line of duty.

(5) Any person who has committed a crime involving the burning or bombing of public or private property, including any public hospital housed in a privately owned facility.

(6) Any person who has committed a crime involving the burning or bombing of any private hospital. A reward may be offered by the Governor in conjunction with that crime only if a reward in conjunction with the same crime is offered by the hospital, or any other public or private donor on its behalf. The amount of the reward offered by the Governor shall not exceed the aggregate amount offered privately, or fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), whichever is less. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude a private hospital, or any public or private donor on its behalf, from offering a reward in an amount exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). If a person providing information for a reward under this paragraph so requests, his or her name and address shall remain confidential. This confidentiality, however, shall not preclude or obstruct the investigations of law enforcement authorities.

(7) Any person who commits a violation of Section 11413.

(8) Any person who commits a violation of Section 207.

(9) Any person who has committed a crime involving the burning or bombing of any bookstore or public or private library not subject to Section 11413. A reward may be offered by the Governor in conjunction with that crime only if a reward in

conjunction with the same crime is offered by the bookstore or library, or any other public or private donor on its behalf. The amount of the reward offered by the Governor shall not exceed the aggregate amount offered privately, or fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), whichever is less. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude a bookstore or public or private library, or any public or private donor on its behalf, from offering a reward in an amount exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). If a person providing information for a reward under this paragraph so requests, his or her name and address shall remain confidential. This confidentiality, however, shall not preclude or obstruct the investigations of law enforcement authorities.

(10) Any person who commits a violation of Section 454 or 463.

(11) Any person who willfully and maliciously sets fire to, or who attempts to willfully and maliciously set fire to, any property that is included within a hazardous fire area designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 4252 of the Public Resources Code or by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 4253 of the Public Resources Code, if the fire, or attempt to set a fire, results in death or great bodily injury to anyone, including fire protection personnel, or if the fire causes substantial structural damage.

(12) Any person who has committed, or is charged with the commission of, a felony that is punishable under Section 422.75 and that resulted in serious bodily injury or in property damage of more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

(13) Any person who commits an act that violates Section 11411, if the Governor determines that the act is one in a series of similar or related acts committed in violation of that section by the same person or group.

(b) The Governor may offer a reward of not more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who kills a peace officer or firefighter who is acting in the line of duty.

(c) The Governor may offer a reward of not more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), payable out of the General Fund, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who commits arson upon a place of worship.

(d) The reward shall be paid to the person giving the information, promptly upon the conviction of the person so arrested, after a recommendation from the United States Attorney, or the California Attorney General, or the district attorney and the chief law enforcement officer, or his or her designate, in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. Rewards shall only be paid to the person if the information is given voluntarily, at the person's own initiative. Rewards shall not be paid as part of any plea bargain.

(e) The reward may also be paid to the person giving the information if both of the following are met:

(1) The arrest or conviction of the person for an offense described in subdivision (a), (b), or (c) is rendered impossible by an intervening event, including, but not limited to, the death of the person during a pursuit by law enforcement, or while in custody.

(2) The appropriate law enforcement officials, after reviewing the evidence related to the crime or crimes, determine that the person is the individual responsible for the

crime or crimes for which the reward was offered, and that the information would have reasonably led to the arrest and conviction of that person.

(f) If more than one claimant is eligible for any reward issued pursuant to this section, the Governor may apportion the reward money in a manner the Governor deems appropriate.

(Amended by Stats. 2002, Ch. 529, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2003.)