



ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION
Protecting Rights and Promoting Freedom on the Electronic Frontier

VIA EMAIL

May 13, 2015

Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: A.B. 1493 (Cooper) – Oppose

Dear Chairperson Gomez,

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is a non-profit member-supported civil liberties organization based in San Francisco, California, that works to protect rights in the digital world. EFF has more than 22,000 active donors across the country.

EFF respectfully opposes A.B.1493, a bill that would establish the California High Technology Crimes Task Force to analyze current law and issue recommendations regarding identity theft, credit card fraud, and other “Internet crimes.”

The 11-member body would be comprised of two members from law enforcement agencies, four members representing law-enforcement associations, and five members representing specific business interests (cellular, banking, cable, movie, and Internet). Conspicuously missing from this list are members from organizations representing other key interests, such as privacy, civil liberties, and victim rights. The proposed task force would not include a single computer scientist, technologist, or other information security expert.

As the bill is currently drafted, A.B. 1493 will create a biased entity that will generate flawed policy recommendations that favor business and law enforcement interests, but not those of the general public.

For these reason, we opposed A.B. 1493 unless amended.

Sincerely,

Dave Maass
Investigative Researcher
Electronic Frontier Foundation

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

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