

1-1-1985

Introduction

Edward G. Poole

University of the Pacific; McGeorge School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Edward G. Poole, *Introduction*, 16 PAC. L. J. 469 (1985).

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/mlr/vol16/iss2/8>

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Introduction

Legislation continually affects our lives, not only as attorneys, but as informed members of society. Awareness of legislative change is as important as cognizance of decisional law, and is essential for anyone in the California legal community. This year, the Legislature presented Californians with an unprecedented number of bills and chaptered laws for a two year session. Thus, the need for a summary of significant legislation becomes more acute.

With this understanding and commitment, the editors and staff of the *Pacific Law Journal* present the Review of Selected 1984 California Legislation. Our purpose is to select significant legislation enacted during the 1984 session and to analyze those changes by comparing prior, existing, and new law. In selecting legislation for analysis in the Review, the editors used the following criteria: (1) whether the bill will affect the practicing bar judiciary; (2) whether the bill will impact upon the work of a legal specialist; and (3) whether the bill will interest the attorney as a community leader. In addition, whether a particular subject was reviewed in previous issues of the Review was considered in order to promote the continuity of the publication.

Each review begins with a description of the topic area, a listing of code sections of interest, a table of sections affected by the bill, the bill and chapter numbers, and the author of the bill. The effective date of the legislation is January 1, 1985, unless specifically noted otherwise in the heading. When constitutional issues, points of practical interest, or problem areas warrant further discussion, a comment is included to provide a broader insight into the legislation. To facilitate access to specific code sections of interest, a table of code sections affected by the bills analyzed in this review is located at the end of this issue. In addition, two tables for cross-referencing bill numbers with chapter numbers are provided to aid further in finding particular legislation.

In the past, the Office of the Governor has provided the *Pacific*

Law Journal with a list of major organizational support and opposition to each chaptered bill. We sincerely regret that this year the Office of the Governor has changed the policy to preclude access to this information. Therefore, we must ask that you contact the author's office if you are interested in obtaining a list of support and opposition to a particular piece of legislation.

Certain terms are used consistently throughout the Review and are worthy of definition. The term "prior law" refers to the law in effect before the enactment of the 1984 legislation but that is no longer in effect after passage of the new legislation. "Existing law" refers to law which was in effect before the passage of the 1984 legislation and which remains in effect after the passage of the new legislation.

The publication of the Legislative Review requires the efforts of many individuals connected with the *Pacific Law Journal*. Most significantly, however, the review is a product of the writers of the Legislative Review Staff. Their dedication and expertise throughout every aspect of the Review has enabled the *Pacific Law Journal* to present a quality research source to the members of the California bar and to publish a review of which the McGeorge School of Law can be proud.

We would like to thank Mr. George Murphy, Retired Legislative Counsel for the State of California, whose comments and suggestions assist us in assuring the substantive accuracy of the Review. His insights into the California legislative process make our efforts an educational and beneficial venture. The assistance of John H. Demouilly, Executive Secretary of the California Law Revision Commission, has provided us with additional comments. We also wish to thank Professor Jerome J. Curtis for his guidance and continued support as advisor to the *Pacific Law Journal*. Finally, Sharleen Driver, our Secretary, deserves many thanks and praise for her unending support and encouragement.

EDWARD G. POOLE
Legislation Editor

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