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Introduction

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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 essential for anyone in the California legal community. One change, for example, may impact upon whether a client has a legal remedy or defense. Changes often concern the procedures surrounding a course of action, and others influence conduct in our everyday lives. Still others indicate trends in society that will eventually lead to further changes in the law.

With this understanding, the editors and staff of the *Pacific Law Journal* present the seventeenth annual Review of Selected California Legislation. Our purpose is to select significant legislation enacted during the 1986 session and to analyze those changes by comparing prior, existing, and new law. In selecting legislation for analysis in the Review, the editors use the following criteria: (1) whether the bill will affect the practicing bar, or judiciary; (2) whether the bill will impact upon the work of legal specialists; 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 sections affected by the bill, the bill and chapter numbers, the author of the bill, and the sponsor of the bill as well as the major organizational support of and opposition to the bill in its chaptered form. The effective date of the legislation is January 1, 1987, unless specifically noted otherwise in the heading. 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. To facilitate access to significant cases, this year a table of cases mentioned in the text has been added.

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 The term "prior law" refers to the law in effect before the enactment of the 1986 legislation but that is no longer in effect after passage of the new legislation.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 1986 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*. In light of this, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my Associate Editors, Terri Crawford and Ty Vanderford for their endless hours of editing as well as the input and guidance they provided regarding the content and direction of this publication. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Assistant Legislative Editors, Catherine Roysdon Spinelli and Todd Picker; the Editor in Chief, Wes Ayres; John Felder and the entire Managing Department for making this Review possible. Most significantly, however, I would like to thank 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 which distinguishes the McGeorge School of Law. In recognition of this fact, the initials of each writer has been added to the end of each write-up. In fairness to the writers, I must point out that the number of write-ups a particular writer authored is not necessarily indicative of the writer's contribution to this Review. Rather, most of these differences can be attributed to the legislative process, especially the last few days of the legislative session where many bills die in committee, get vetoed or chaptered out.

The entire Legislation Department would like to thank Mr. Owen Kuns and Mr. Ray Whitaker, Retired Legislative Counsels for the State of California, whose comments and suggestions assisted us in assuring the substantive accuracy of the Review. Their insights into the California legislative process make our efforts an educational and beneficial venture. We also wish to thank Mr. Robert

Williams of the Office of the Governor for his assistance in obtaining the sponsor of the bills, as well as the major support and opposition to the chaptered bills. Additionally, we 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.

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