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Introduction: Review of Selected 1977 California Legislation

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Introduction

The *Pacific Law Journal* is proud to present the eighth annual Review of Selected California Legislation. During the first half of the 1977-78 Regular Session the California Legislature has reenacted the death penalty by overriding the Governor's veto, unified the rules of civil discovery, enacted the Informational Privacy Act of 1977, banned the manufacture and sale of certain aerosol propellants, abolished mandatory retirement, prohibited the practice of "redlining" in home financing, and revised the state school financing system to "substantially comply" with the mandate of the California Supreme Court. This segment of Volume 9 of the *Pacific Law Journal* is devoted to presenting the legal community with a concise and accurate summary of these and other significant legislative measures enacted into law during the past year. In a continuing effort to provide a more authoritative research tool and source of legislative intent, the 1977 Legislative Review Staff has, whenever possible, obtained direct support for statements of legislative purpose and construction through increased reference to legislative committee hearings and reports as well as personal correspondence with the authors and sponsors of specific legislative proposals. In selecting the legislation to be included in this review from among the 1,261 chaptered bills, the editors have utilized three basic criteria; specifically, whether the bill will affect the work of the practicing bar or bench, whether the bill will affect the work of the legal specialist, and whether the bill, although only indirectly affecting the day-to-day work of the attorney, will interest him or her as a community leader.

The heading of each bill analysis includes a description of the subject area, a listing of the code sections affected by the bill, the bill and chapter numbers, the author of the bill, all major organizational support and opposition, and the effective date of all measures that become operative other than on January 1, 1978. When constitutional issues, points of practical interest, or problem areas have merited further discussion, a comment has been included to provide a broader insight into the legislation. The list of general references at the end of each analysis is intended to provide the researcher with a starting point for continued study of the topic area affected by the bill. In addition, to facilitate access to specific code sections of interest, a table of the code sections affected by the bills analyzed in this review is provided at the end of this issue.

The preparation and publication of the Legislative Review requires the joint effort of many individuals interested in the legislative process, but is most significantly a product of the dedication and competence of the mem-

bers of the Legislative Review Staff. We are grateful for the diligence and enthusiasm demonstrated by these writers. The editors would also like to thank the Select Committee of Advisors and in particular Harold Bradford, Legislative Representative of the State Bar of California, John DeMouly, Executive Secretary of the California Law Revision Commission, Robert Williams, Legislative Advisor, Office of the Governor, and Jerome Curtis, Jr., Faculty Advisor to the *Pacific Law Journal*, for their special assistance in the preparation of the bill analyses. Finally, the editors wish to extend a special thanks to the many committee consultants who contributed their valuable time and advice to the writers throughout this project, and to our manuscript typist, Margie Seegmiller.

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The majority of the 1261 bills enacted in 1977 took effect on January 1, 1978. When the effective date of a bill differs from this, it is noted.
