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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 cause 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 sixteenth annual Review of Selected California Legislation. Our purpose is to select significant legislation enacted during the 1985 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 a 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 code sections of interest, a table of sections affected by the bill, the bill and chapter numbers, the author of the bill, and the major organizational support of and opposition to the bill in its chaptered form. The effective date of the legislation is January 1, 1986, 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.

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 The term "prior law" refers to the law in effect before the enactment of the 1985 legislation but that is no longer in effect

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after passage of the new legislation. "Existing law" refers to law which was in effect before the passage of the 1985 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. We also wish to thank Mr. Robert Williams of the Office of the Governor for his assistance in obtaining 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.

PETER BACH MOLGAARD
Legislation Editor

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