



effect immediately upon their enactment and eliminate the two-thirds vote requirement for the passage of appropriations from the general fund. [A. Inactive File]

ACA 3 (Richter). Under the California Constitution, appropriations from the general fund, except appropriations for the public schools, require the approval of two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature. As amended August 16, this measure would additionally exempt appropriations in the budget bill from that two-thirds vote requirement, and specify that statutes enacting a budget bill go into effect immediately upon their enactment. This measure would amend the California Constitution to require, in any year in which a budget bill is not passed by the legislature before midnight on June 30, that each member of the legislature forfeit all salary and reimbursement for living expenses from July 1 until the date that the budget bill is passed by the legislature. This measure would also require that the total of all expenditures, as defined, that are authorized to be made under the Budget Act enacted for any fiscal year, combined with the total of all reserves that are authorized to be established by the state for that fiscal year, shall not exceed the total of all revenues and other resources, as defined, that are available to the state for that fiscal year. [A. ER&CA]

ACA 21 (Areias), as introduced March 5, would provide that if the Governor fails to sign a budget bill on or before June 30, then on July 1 an annual budget that is the same amount as that which was enacted for the immediately preceding fiscal year shall become the state's interim budget for the new fiscal year and the balance of each item of that interim budget shall be reduced 10% each month, commencing August 1, until a new budget bill has been signed by the Governor. [A. Rls]

SB 1171 (Alquist), as introduced March 5, would eliminate the requirement that the Legislative Analyst prepare a judicial impact analysis on selected measures referred to specified legislative committees, and require LAO to conduct its work in a strictly non-partisan manner. [S. Rls]

SB 1172 (Alquist), as introduced March 5, would eliminate the requirement that the Legislative Analyst evaluate the workload of the State Bar Court and submit a final written report of his/her findings and conclusions to specified committees. [S. Rls]

ASSEMBLY OFFICE OF RESEARCH

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Established in 1966, the Assembly Office of Research (AOR) brings together legislators, scholars, research experts, and interested parties from within and outside the legislature to conduct extensive studies regarding problems facing the state.

Under the director of the Assembly's bipartisan Committee on Policy Research, AOR investigates current state issues and publishes reports which include long-term policy recommendations. Such investigative projects often result in legislative action, usually in the form of bills.

AOR also processes research requests from Assemblymembers. Results of these short-term research projects are confidential unless the requesting legislators authorize their release.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Defense Conversion Resource Guide (October 1993) was prepared by AOR specifically to assist the bipartisan Assembly Task Force on Defense Conversion, which was created in March 1993 to maximize federal defense conversion funding for California and assist communities in the defense conversion process. The *Resource Guide* seeks to assist the Task Force in its mission by providing the names, addresses, and contact persons of the various local, state, and federal agencies responsible for overseeing defense industry conversion and base closures. The *Guide* also describes federal and state grants available for defense conversion purposes and summarizes recent federal and state legislation affecting defense conversion.

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Established and directed by the Senate Committee on Rules, the Senate Office of Research (SOR) serves as the bipartisan, strategic research and planning unit for the Senate. SOR produces major policy reports, issue briefs, background information on legislation and, occasionally, sponsors symposia and conferences.

Any Senator or Senate committee may request SOR's research, briefing, and consulting services. Resulting reports are not always released to the public.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Highlights of the Legislative Accomplishments of 1993 (November 1993) summarizes the first year of the 1993-94 legislative session, which ended on September 11. According to SOR, the California legislature reached long-sought reforms on a wide range of issues, including environmental regulation and workers' compensation. SOR noted that many bills sent to Governor Wilson were aimed at promoting California's infrastructure to facilitate the state's economic development and streamlining regulations that affect business expansion. Among other things, SOR described the following legislative accomplishments:

-Reforms in the state's workers' compensation system are expected to cut costs, increase benefits to injured workers, and save employers a projected \$1.5 billion. [13:4 CRLR 115-16]

-California's presidential primary election will be moved on a one-time basis from June, at the end of the nation's primary season, to March, in an attempt to increase California's political clout.

-New California motorists will be required to prove they are in the country legally before they may obtain drivers' licenses.

-Bicyclists under the age of 18 will be required to wear helmets when riding [13:4 CRLR 229]; passengers in the back of pick-up trucks will be required to wear safety belts.

-An additional \$0.02-per-pack tax on cigarettes will fund breast cancer prevention and detection programs.

-The state will provide \$4 million in grants to match federal grants to assist California businesses converting from military to civilian work.

-Legislation revising the California Environmental Quality Act will reduce the need for businesses to provide duplicate information on the environmental impact of their projects, tighten requirements for bringing lawsuits against projects, shift some of the burden of performing environmental impact studies from businesses to regulatory agencies, and require regulatory agencies to weigh a project's impact on the environment against the impact on high-skilled jobs. [13:4 CRLR 178-79]

-Californians who access Internet, a public computer bulletin board that provides access to federal government data, will be privy to the legislature's electronic file of bills, committee analyses, and votes. [13:4 CRLR 229-30]

-Legislation expanded 1990 reforms to the state's physician discipline system by expediting the hearing of disciplinary cases, monitoring the Medical Board of



California's performance in handling disciplinary cases, and making public information concerning licensees' felony convictions and malpractice judgments. [13:4 CRLR 54-56]

Managing Growth in California: A Blueprint for Economic and Environmental Recovery (December 1993) seeks to provide a framework for responding to the challenges of a population that has grown a staggering 25% within the last decade. The report stresses the triple challenges of providing prosperity, embracing social equity, and maintaining respect for the environment in a statewide climate of faltering economics and budgetary problems.

According to SOR, many of the state's economic, social, and environmental problems have their roots in the state's failure to adequately manage and guide its phenomenal growth. SOR noted that growth management in California has the following three weaknesses: a land use pattern that allows development to overburden public facilities and services and threaten social, environmental, and community values; inconsistency and conflict among economic, social, and environmental policies and regulations governing land use and economic development, resulting in confusion, delay, and protracted legal battles; and a public financing system that promotes destructive competition and undermines good planning decisions.

SOR offered the following recommendations for improving the state's economic and environmental climate:

-California should implement a state strategy for economic and environmental recovery; that strategy should state clear growth management policies, include a long-range state planning and investment strategy, create a commission to exercise effective state oversight, permit streamlining, and facilitate conflict resolution and fast-track appeals.

-California should implement local and regional economic development and growth management programs.

-The state should increase its investments to support economic, social and environmental recovery; further, California should create a state infrastructure bank to help pay for qualifying state and local projects, funded through a state general obligation bond measure approved by the voters.

-California should reform the local finance system to plan and pay for services and facilities to stimulate economic and environmental recovery.

