



frozen these funds. Thus, the Commission has postponed these hearings subject to reactivation of the funds. Instead, the Commission scheduled an April 25 public hearing on the coordination of drug education. On May 23 and June 27, the Commission is scheduled to hold hearings on the state's government reorganization plan.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Director: James Conran
(916) 445-4465

Consumer Infoline: (800) 344-9940
Infoline for the Speech/Hearing Impaired: (916) 322-1700

In addition to its functions relating to its 38 boards, bureaus, and commissions, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is charged with carrying out the Consumer Affairs Act of 1970. The Department educates consumers, assists them in complaint mediation, advocates their interests before the legislature, and represents them before the state's administrative agencies and courts.

On March 13, Governor Wilson named James Conran, a Pacific Bell executive from the San Francisco Bay area, to serve as DCA's Director. Conran, who is DCA's tenth director since 1970, formerly served as Manager for Consumer Affairs and Public Issues at Pacific Bell, and also sat on the Public Utilities Commission's Telecommunications Education Trust Fund.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Annual Report Released. On March 4, DCA released its 1989-90 Annual Report, which covers fiscal year July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990. The report contains summaries of the activities of each of the Department's various units; a brief report about each of the 38 boards, bureaus, and commissions under DCA's supervision; Department statistics; a list of licensed businesses and professions; and toll-free numbers of various California state agencies.

Vehicle Arbitration Program Expands. DCA has expanded California's first state-approved vehicle arbitration program to include Maserati, Sterling Motor Car, Peugeot, and Range Rover as participating automobile manufacturers. Applications from Chrysler and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars are currently pending with the Department. Auto manufacturers certified by the program now comprise 66% of the U.S. car market. (See

CRLR Vol. 11, No. 1 (Winter 1991) p. 43 for background information.)

LEGISLATION:

AB 168 (Eastin) would create the Board of Legal Technicians in DCA, and would require every person who practices as a legal technician to be licensed or registered by the Board, which would determine which areas require licensure and which require registration. This bill would also amend existing law to provide that no person may advertise or hold himself/herself out as entitled to appear, on behalf of another, before any court or tribunal of this state unless that person is authorized to so appear pursuant to a rule adopted by the court or tribunal or pursuant to law. (See CRLR Vol. 11, No. 1 (Winter 1991) pp. 43-44 and 149 and Vol. 10, No. 4 (Fall 1990) pp. 42 and 185 for background information.) This bill is pending in the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, Governmental Efficiency and Economic Development.

AB 1893 (Lancaster), as introduced March 8, is DCA's omnibus bill which would make numerous changes to existing laws providing for the licensing and regulation of various businesses and professions pursuant to the provisions of the Business and Professions Code. Among other things, this bill would authorize various licensing boards to release a social security number to an examination or licensing entity, only for the purpose of verification of licensure or examination status; require the retention of records by certain persons contracting with the DCA or any board within the Department until an audit may be performed; revise existing law with respect to submission to the DCA of rules and regulations and fee changes promulgated by any of the boards or committees within the Department; and revise the definition of the term "license" for purposes of licensing provisions to include the performance of any activity or function in connection with a business or profession whose activity is regulated pursuant to those provisions. This bill, which is sponsored by DCA, is pending in the Assembly Consumer Protection Committee.

AB 1382 (Lancaster). Business and Professions Code section 143 currently prohibits a person who engages in any business for which a license is required under the Business and Professions Code from bringing an action for compensation for performance of any act for which a license is required without alleging and proving that he/she was licensed during the time of the performance of the act. Existing law also prohibits applica-

tion of the judicial doctrine of substantial compliance in these circumstances. As introduced March 7, this bill would delete the prohibition on the application of the judicial doctrine of substantial compliance in these circumstances. This bill is pending in the Assembly Consumer Protection Committee.

SB 961 (Boatwright). Existing law provides that the decisions of any of the boards within DCA with respect to setting standards, conducting examinations, passing candidates, and revoking licenses are final, except as specified, and are not subject to review by DCA's Director. As introduced March 8, this bill would create exceptions to this law by providing that the Director may initiate an investigation of any allegations of misconduct in the preparation, administration, or scoring of an examination which is administered by a board, or in the review of qualifications which are a part of the licensing process of any board. The bill would also allow the Director to intervene in any matter of any board where an investigation by DCA's Division of Investigation discloses probable cause to believe that the conduct or activity of a board, or its members or employees, constitutes a violation of criminal law. This bill is pending in the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

Legislative Analyst: Elizabeth G. Hill
(916) 445-4656

Created in 1941, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is responsible for providing analysis and nonpartisan advice on fiscal and policy issues to the California legislature. LAO meets this duty through four primary functions. First, the office prepares a detailed, written analysis of the Governor's budget each year. This analysis, which contains recommendations for program reductions, augmentations, legislative revisions, and organizational changes, serves as an agenda for legislative review of the budget.

Second, LAO produces a companion document to the annual budget analysis which paints the overall expenditure and revenue picture of the state for the coming year. This document also identifies and analyzes a number of emerging policy issues confronting the legislature, and suggests policy options for addressing those issues.

Third, the Office analyzes, for the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Appropriations and