The Mission of the California Dental Hygienists’ Association

- Advance the art and science of dental hygiene
- Increase the public’s awareness of the cost effective benefits of prevention
- Ensure access to quality oral health care
- Promote the highest standards of dental hygiene
- Promote dental hygiene research
- Promote the interests of dental hygienists
Legislators Are People Too!

How to Connect and Build Relationships with Your California State Legislators

STEP ONE: Identify Your State Representatives

How do I do that?
• Go to the “Find Your California Representative” web page at http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/
• Enter your address, city and zip code in the search box on the left and click on search
• You will be taken to a page with links to your representatives’ websites

Okay, so now I know the names of my representatives. What’s next?

STEP TWO: Use Online Resources to Learn More About Your Representatives

What online resources?
• Click on the links to your representative’s official website and read their biography
• Sign-up for their newsletters or e-alerts
• Check to see if your legislators have Facebook pages and “Friend” or “Like” them.

STEP THREE: Move From Virtual Connection to Real-time with a District Office Visit

Who do I schedule a visit with my representatives or staff in their district office?
• You can find the phone number and address for district offices on their website.
• Call and say that you are a constituent and you would like to meet with your legislator or staff.
• See suggested talking points on page 4.

Day of Visit:
• Dress business casual (look professional BECAUSE you are a professional).
• Be on time.
• Bring your business card and offer yourself as a resource for the future when the legislator or staff have questions about dental hygiene and RDHAP care statewide.
• Share that you are a CDHA member.
• After the visit, send a thank you card to the legislator for meeting with you.

STEP FOUR: Email CDHA and your legislative advocate about your visit:

• CDHA Contact: Email: member services@cdha.org Telephone: (916) 993-9102
• Legislative Advocate: Jennifer Tannehill of Aaron Read & Associates.
  Email: jtannehill@aaronread.com

Really, just make that positive connection with your legislators!
TALKING POINTS

The purpose of legislator meetings is to provide CDHA members an opportunity to meet their state elected representatives, to share with that legislator, or his/her staff, information about who CDHA is, what you do, what patients you serve and about the care you provide to your community.

The meetings are short “meet and greet” 15-20 minute appointments meant to inform decision makers in the State Capitol about dental hygiene, RDHs, RDHAPs and CDHA. The meetings build a foundational relationship with the legislators who will vote on how dental hygiene care is delivered in California and who delivers it. Legislators have a major impact on the oral health profession so it is vital that RDHs and RDHAPs get to know them.

Each Senator represents a district of about one million people and each Assemblymember represents a district of about 500,000 people. Legislators are always looking for ways to know their constituents and make connections with the people they serve. Legislative Days are a great avenue for CDHA members to connect with the decision makers who so greatly impact your profession.

TALKING POINTS

• Begin each meeting by each person introducing themselves and stating the city they’re from.
• Ask the legislator or his/her staff if they are familiar with the work of dental hygienists and, if not, explain hygienists and how they specialize in preventive oral health care.
• Each person should share where they work, what patients they serve and what they do for their patients.
• The office will ask you how they can help you:
  Issue 1 » Tell them that dental hygienists comprise an available, educated workforce, which can be better utilized to help address California’s healthcare needs.
  Issue 2 » Tell them hygienists support extending the Dental Hygiene Committee of California (DHCC) for another four years and ask for their support of SB 1482 (Hill).
  Issue 3 » Tell them that DHCS’s policies do not prioritize cost-effective prevention and, worse yet, are harming fragile patients who rely on the services of RDHAPs.
• Tell them to please use CDHA as a resource for any preventive oral health issues that may come up in their district or in the Capitol.
• Thank them for their time and service to the public.

NOTE: It is illegal to discuss donating to a legislator’s campaign or to discuss attending a fundraiser and policy issues in the same meeting. It is best to stay on policy topics only when meeting in the State Capitol or the District Office.
OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The process of government by which bills are considered and laws enacted is commonly referred to as the Legislative Process. The California State Legislature is made up of two houses: the Senate and the Assembly. There are 40 senators and 80 assemblymembers representing the people of the state of California. The Legislature has a legislative calendar containing important dates of activities during its two-year session.

Idea
All legislation begins as an idea or concept by an organization. The process begins when a senator or assemblymember decides to author a bill.

The Author
A legislator sends the idea for the bill to Legislative Council where it is drafted into the actual bill. The draft of the bill is returned to the legislator for introduction. If the author is a Senator, the bill is introduced in the Senate. If the author is an assemblymember, the bill is introduced in the Assembly.

First Reading/Introduction
A bill is introduced or read the first time when the bill number, the name of the author, and the descriptive title of the bill are read on the floor of the house. The bill is then sent to the Office of State Printing. No bill may be acted upon until 30 days have passed from the date of its introduction.

Committee Hearings
The bill then goes to the Rules Committee of the house of origin where it is assigned to the appropriate policy committee for its first hearing. Bills are assigned to policy committees according to subject area of the bill. For example, a Senate bill dealing with health care facilities would first be assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for policy review. Bills that require expenditure of funds must also be heard in the fiscal committees: Senate Appropriations or Assembly Appropriations. Each house has a number of policy committees and a fiscal committee. Each committee is made up of a specified number of Senators or Assembly Members.

During the committee hearing, the author presents the bill to the committee and testimony can be heard in support of or in opposition to the bill. The committee then votes passing the bill, passing the bill as amended, or defeating the bill. Bills can be amended several times. Letters of support or opposition are important and should be sent to the author and committee members before the bill is scheduled to be heard in committee. It takes a majority vote of the full committee membership for a bill to be passed by the committee.

Each house maintains a schedule of legislative committee hearings. Prior to a bill’s hearing, a bill analysis is prepared that explains current law, what the bill is intended to do, and some background information. Typically the analysis also lists organizations that support or oppose the bill.
Second and Third Reading
Bills passed by committees are read a second time on the floor in the house of origin and then assigned to third reading. Bill analyses are also prepared prior to third reading. When a bill is read the third time it is explained by the author, discussed by the members and voted on by a roll call vote. Bills that require an appropriation or that take effect immediately generally require 27 votes in the Senate and 54 votes in the Assembly to be passed. Other bills generally require 21 votes in the Senate and 41 votes in the Assembly. If a bill is defeated, the member may seek reconsideration and another vote.

Repeat Process in Other House
Once the bill has been approved by the house of origin it proceeds to the other house where the procedure is repeated.

Resolution of Differences
If a bill is amended in the second house, it must go back to the house of origin for concurrence, which is agreement on the amendments. If agreement cannot be reached, the bill is referred to a two-house conference committee to resolve differences. The conference committee is comprised of three Assembly members and three Senators. If a compromise is reached, the bill is returned to both houses for a vote.

Governor
If both houses approve a bill, it then goes to the Governor. The Governor has three choices. The Governor can sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without his signature, or veto it. A Governor’s veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both houses. Most bills go into effect on the first day of January of the next year. Urgency measures take effect immediately after they are signed or allowed to become law without signature.

California Law
Bills that are passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor are assigned a Chapter number by the Secretary of State. These chaptered bills (also referred to as statues of the year they were enacted) then become part of the California Codes. The California Codes are a comprehensive collection of laws grouped by subject matter.

The California Constitution sets forth the fundamental laws by which the State of California is governed. All amendments to the Constitution come about as a result of constitutional amendments presented to the people for their approval.
HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

Committee System

The assembly and senate have established more than two dozen “policy” committees over the years, which deal with different areas. No single legislator could possibly know everything about all the bills introduced in any given legislative session. Therefore, various policy committees have been established and legislators tend to serve on committees where they have some personal or district interest. For example, the Central Valley legislators typically like to be on the Agriculture Committee or the Water Committee; Southern California legislators often want to be on the Transportation Committee; legislators interested in law and order issues typically want to be on the Public Safety Committee. Still other legislators who might have education as a high priority want to be on the Education Committee. Beyond these there is the Revenue and Taxation Committee, Public Employees and Retirement Committee, Judiciary Committee, Appropriations Committee, Budget Committee and so on.

Committee Process

Committees hold hearings where the public is invited to testify in support or opposition to any bill that might be on the calendar that day. Typically, the author of the bill presents it and witnesses appear in support or opposition and upon conclusion of the testimony the committee takes a vote. It only takes a majority of the committee to pass any bill regardless of its intent. However, on the Floor, a two-thirds vote is required for bills that have an appropriation, an urgency clause, or budget and/or tax increases of any kind. All other bills are a majority vote on the Floor.

Legislative advocates, or what most call “lobbyists”, usually present testimony in the Capitol since those they represent are usually employed full time and are unable to take the necessary time off to go to the Capitol. The same applies to dozens of other associations and businesses and the 1,100 other lobbyists who ply their trade in the Capitol.

Good lobbyists meet with legislators and staff prior to the hearing to prepare them with information in the form of fact sheets and persuasive arguments regarding their position. In other words, advance work is often required to avoid last minute problems. Good lobbyists often have a feel for a committee’s view towards the bill before the actual hearing. Anticipating a legislator’s questions ahead of time can assure the author and witness provides satisfactory answers.

Committee consultants are an important part of the process since they are the “resident experts” on the policy or subject area of each committee. Typically, committees recruit consultants with some expertise in the subject area and therefore rely on their analysis of legislation. It is very typical for a consultant to point out flaws in legislation and to suggest questions for legislators to ask during the hearing. Consequently, it is important to maintain a close relationship with the consultants.

Bill Flowchart

On the following page is a flowchart that shows how a bill goes from introduction into the legislative system and how it ultimately winds its way through committee, the Floor vote and then repeats that process in the opposite house before continuing to the Governor.
How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. Bill is introduced
2. Committee Hearings
   - If passed
     - (Sent to other house)
   - If passed with amendments
   - If passed without amendments
3. Floor Action
4. Returned to original house
5. Bill goes to Governor
   - If original house concurs
   - If not vetoed
6. Most bills become law January 1 of the next year
A SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE MEETING

CHECKLIST OF “DO’S” FOR A SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Do request an appointment in advance

Time is precious in legislative offices. Be sure to contact the legislator’s office to arrange a meeting. It is best to confirm your meeting in writing and follow up with a phone call prior to the meeting date. Be clear about who will attend the meeting and the specific reason for the meeting.

Do prepare carefully and thoroughly for your meeting

Get to know your legislator’s voting record, position on your issue and committee assignments. Develop an agenda so that your attendees can understand the direction and purpose of the meeting. Know your talking points and be prepared to make your case. Finally, know your opposition’s arguments and, if possible, acknowledge and rebut those arguments during your presentation.

Do stick to your messages

Successful legislative meetings should be clear, concise and straightforward. Stick to CDHA messages. Follow your messages up with a specific request for action by the legislator.

Do make a clear request for action from your legislator

The purpose of the meeting is to secure support for your issue. It is appropriate and expected that you will make a request to your legislator for support. Your request should be timely and consistent with the legislative process. Make a direct request that is correlated with pending legislation (e.g. “Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 1654”). You should always reference the bill and be aware of its status (e.g. “A vote is pending in the Senate Business & Professions Committee”).

Do follow up with your legislator and/or legislative staffer

Send a thank you letter immediately following your meeting to express appreciation, as well as reinforce messages about the importance of preventive oral health care. If you offer to provide additional resources or information during the meeting, be sure to provide that information immediately following the meeting. Even if the legislator does not support your position, do follow up and be available to him/her in the future. Follow up is critically important in your efforts to build long-term relationships with legislators. Finally, do not forget to report the results of your meeting back to CDHA’s GRC Chair for evaluation purposes.
CHECKLIST OF “DON'T’S” FOR A LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Don't go off message

You must deliver a clear, concise and consistent message during your meeting. Sending different messages or discussing unrelated topics will undermine your effectiveness and your ability to secure support. Limit your advocacy to a single issue and make certain your fellow meeting attendees do the same. You want to deliver a unified message on the importance of preventive oral health care.

Don't use ultimatums or threats

Even if a legislator expresses opposition to your issue, don't threaten to vote against him/her in an upcoming election. This type of disrespectful behavior will ensure your interests will not be met now or in the future.

Don't get involved in partisan politics

Keep your discussion focused on the many benefits of preventive oral health care. Avoid characterizing the issue in partisan terms and never make disparaging comments about a political party or elected official during your meeting.

Remember, you're advocating for an issue, not a political party.

Don't be late

Be very respectful of a legislator's time and schedule. Punctuality conveys professionalism and demonstrates your commitment to the issue. Arrive early in order to review your agenda and finalize your presentation with your colleagues.

Don't get too comfortable

In order to effectively advocate on behalf of the dental hygiene profession, you must present a professional image. This means casual attire is out. Please stick to business or business casual attire when meeting with your legislator. Also, remember to bring your business cards and CDHA informational materials that you can leave with your legislator and his/her staff.

Don't forget to follow up

Send a thank you letter immediately after your meeting. Be sure to address any action items discussed during your meeting in the letter as well. For example, if your legislator agrees to help with your issue(s) during the meeting, make sure he/she does so by helping facilitate the process if necessary. It is very important to track how your legislator responds to your issue.
GUIDELINES FOR CONTACTING YOUR REP

Contacts by individual members are a vital part of this program. There are at least three methods of legislative contact – in person, in writing, and by telephone. The following suggestions are offered to make your contact easy and effective:

Personal Contacts

- This is the most effective type of legislative contact, but is sometimes difficult to arrange due to the legislator’s busy schedule. Contact with the legislator’s staff specialist on your issue can also be productive.
- Contacts can be either at the legislator’s office in the state capitol, or in his/her district office.
- If you are uncomfortable with making this contact solo, you can take another member or two with you.
- This is a business meeting and should be brief, to the point, and with the usual social amenities, i.e. introduce yourself as a constituent, ask the legislator to do something specific (support of oppose a particular measure, etc.) and thank the legislator for his/her time upon departing.
- If follow-up is required, be sure to follow up. Your credibility is important, as is the legislator’s accountability.

Letters/Emails

- Letters should be used when time permits and personal contact is impossible. Letters are considered more valuable than telephone calls.
- Legible handwritten letters are acceptable, typewritten are preferred.
- Limit each letter to a single issue. Write multiple letters if you have several issues to discuss. This allows you to keep the letter short and insures that the reader will quickly focus on your concern and position.
- Introduce yourself. Tell who you are, but do not make a biography out of it. A simple statement, such as “I am a member of the California Dental Hygienists’ Association” will do nicely. Make sure to include your address at the top of the letter and your full name at the bottom.
- Be specific. Identify the bill you are writing about.
- Be timely. Make certain you write in time to do some good.
- Write to your own legislator. It usually does little good to write to a legislator who is not in your district. An exception to this – and an important one – when a bill is in committee, and you want to write the chair or members of the committee.
- Be brief. Your legislator is a busy person, and so are the members of his staff. Get to the point quickly without too much preliminary. In general, a hand-written letter should run no more than two pages and a typed letter no more than one.
• Make it personal. It is always best to express your own thoughts. A signature on a form letter is not very effective.
• Give your reasons. Whether you are for or against, state your case clearly.
• Be constructive. Do not limit your points to what is wrong with a bill. Suggest changes that would improve it if possible.
• Never threaten. If you threaten your legislator with dire consequences (I will never vote for you again!) They will probably just ignore it. It might have an adverse effect, too; and if you call them names and cast aspirations on their lineage, you cannot expect their favorable response.
• Be understanding. Remember there are at least two sides to every issue.
• Ask for a response. Include a question in your letter that will require some response.
• Show you care. After the votes are in and the smoke has cleared, there is still something for you to do. If your legislator has voted your way on a bill, send him a short note of appreciation. You may not think this is important, but it is.

**Telephone Contact**

• The telephone should be used when time is critical (action on a bill is imminent).
• Be polite.
• Identify yourself as a constituent.
• Ask to speak to the legislator personally. (You may have to settle for a member of the legislator’s staff, but that will be effective also.)
• Briefly describe the issues, your position, and the reasons to support your position. If the legislator has a compelling reason not to support your position, note the reasons.
• Thank the legislator for his time and consideration.
• Notify the Association of the contact and outcome.

From time to time, the legislative advocate, through our headquarters, will ask the membership to make legislative contact on specific issues. When this occurs, you will be furnished with the facts necessary to make the contact. However, form letters or cards are not advisable.

In summary, whatever means of legislative contact is made, be courteous, brief, and follow-up by notifying headquarters of the contact.
GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE TERMS

Abbreviations
The following abbreviations are commonly used by the California Legislature:

A.B.   Assembly Bill
S.B.   Senate Bill
A.C.A. Assembly Constitutional Amendment
S.C.A. Senate Constitutional Amendment
A.J.R. Assembly Joint Resolution
S.J.R. Senate Joint Resolution
A.C.R. Assembly Concurrent Resolution
S.C.R. Senate Concurrent Resolution
H.R.   House Resolution (Assembly)
S.R.   Senate Resolution

A

ACT – a bill passed by the Legislature.

ADVISE AND CONSENT – confirmation by the Senate of certain appointees of the Governor.

AMENDMENT – any alteration made, or proposed to be made, in a bill, motion, or clause thereof, by adding, changing, substituting or omitting.

APPORTIONMENT – money set apart by formal action, for a specific use.

ASSEMBLY – that house of the California Legislature consisting of 80 members, elected from districts apportioned on the basis of population.

B

BICAMERAL – a legislature consisting of two houses.

BILL – a proposed law, introduced during a session for consideration by the Legislature, and identified numerically in order of presentation; also, commonly, but incorrectly, refers to Joint and Concurrent Resolutions, and Constitutional Amendments.

BUDGET – suggested allocation of state moneys presented annually by the Governor, for consideration by the Legislature; compiled by the Department of Finance, in conjunction with State Department Heads.
CALL OF THE HOUSE – directive by the presiding officer, on motion from the Floor, empowering the sergeant-at-arms to lock the chamber, barring egress of members present, and to “bring in the absent members,” by arrest if necessary, to vote on a measure under consideration; action on such being suspended until motion to lift call is made, at which time immediate vote must be taken.

CAUCUS – an informal meeting of a group of the members, sometimes called on the basis of party affiliation. Also, the research staff and offices of the minority and majority leaders. Derived from an Algonquian Indian word.

CHAPTER OUT – provisions of one chaptered bill conflicts with another. The bill with the higher chapter number prevails.

CHIEF CLERK – an officer of the Assembly, elected by the members to direct the clerical staff and the preparation of daily printing and general publications, and to be of assistance to the presiding officer in interpreting the rules.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION – a measure offered in one house and agreed to by the other, not requiring approval by the Governor, and frequently pertaining to the business of the Legislature; also, the adoption of, or amendments to charters of political subdivisions of the State.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE – group of six members, with representatives from both houses, appointed to consider matters upon which the two houses disagree, usually concerning amendments adopted by one house to a measure originating in the other, compromise often results from elimination of objectionable material or insertion of new amendments; if the report of the joint committee is not adopted by both houses, a new committee is appointed. Not more than three conference committees may be appointed on any one bill.

CONSENT CALENDAR – file of noncontroversial bills, which it is unanimously agreed, should be passed.

CONSTITUENT – citizen residing within the district of a legislator.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – a resolution affecting the Constitution, adopted by the Legislature or presented by initiative, requiring an affirmative vote of the electorate to become effective.

CONVENE – to assemble, call together a meeting. The Legislature convenes daily, weekly, and at the beginning of a session as provided for by the Constitution.
D

DIGEST – a brief statement by the Legislative Counsel, of the effect a proposed measure on existing law. It appears on the first page of every printed measure.

DISTRICT – that division of the state represented by a legislator, distinguished numerically, or by counties contained therein, determined on the basis of population.

DOUBLE JOIN – incorporate provisions of another bill to avoid possibility of chaptering out.

E

ENACTING CLAUSE - by statutory provision, each proposed law must be preceded by the phrase “the People of the State of California do enact as follows.”

ENGROSSMENT – comparison of printed bill to assure its likeness to the original; and that amendments are properly inserted. The official proofreading which follows 2nd Reading and/or the adoption of any amendments.

ENROLLMENT – the filing of resolutions with the Secretary of State, and of bills with the Governor, following the final proofreading by the house of origin, which determines (for example) that amendments recommended by the other house, or by conference committees, are properly inserted.

EX OFFICIO – (lit. out of or because of one’s office) the holding of a particular office by reason of holding another, for example, the Lieutenant Governor is, ex officio, a member of the University of California Board of Regents.

F

FILE – daily printed program or agenda of business before the house and its committees.

FINAL HISTORY – final compilation of the Senate and Assembly Histories showing final disposition of all measures, together with tables, indexes and other information.

FLOOR – a colloquialism describing the interior of either house, sometimes distinguishing the membership from the presiding officer; matters before the house may be referred to as “on the Floor”.
HOUSE – legislative body, either the Senate or Assembly in California, not limited solely, as in Washington, D.C., to the lower house.

INITIATIVE – method of direct legislation by a vote of the people.

INTERIM – interval between regular sessions, or a long recess within a session.

JOURNAL – official chronological record of the proceedings of the respective houses, printed daily in pamphlet form, certified, indexed and bound at the close of each session.

LAW – rule of conduct determined by the people through their elected representatives, or by direct vote.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE – an individual engaged to present the views of a group or organization to legislators, and required by law to register with and be certified by the Secretary of State. Commonly called lobbyist.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST – staff director for Joint Budget Committee. Analyzes Governor’s Budget and recommends such changes as he deems justified.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL – officer elected jointly by both houses. He directs the drafting of proposed legislation and acts as the Legislature’s lawyer.

LOWER HOUSE – the Assembly.

MOTION – the formal proposal offered by a member while the house is in session.
OFFICERS – that portion of the legislative staff elected by the membership at the beginning of a session (with the exception of the Lieutenant Governor, who is President of the Senate by Constitutional enactment). In the Assembly, the Speaker, Speaker pro Tempore, Chief Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms; in the Senate, the President pro Tempore, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms.

PASSAGE – favorable action on a measure before either house.

POINT OF ORDER – motion calling attention to a breach of order or of rules.

POSTPONE – motion to delay action on matters before the house.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE – (lit. for the time) elected by Senate; Chairman of Rules Committee; secures efficient disposition of Senate business; has same powers as President in latter’s absence.

QUORUM - number of members required to be present before business can be transacted. 21 in the Senate and 41 in the Assembly.

READING – presentation of a bill before either house by reading the title thereof; a stage in the enactment of a measure. A bill, until passed, is either in process for first, second or third reading, no matter how many times it has actually been read.

REAPPORTIONMENT – redistricting the State for election purposes.

REFERENDUM – method by which a measure adopted by the Legislature may be submitted to popular vote, called “invoking the referendum”.

RESOLUTION – formal expression of opinion or decision (not to be confused with a proposed law) which may be offered to the house for approval, by a member or group of members, and falling in one of three categories: Joint - addressed by the Legislature to the Federal Government or an agency thereof; Concurrent - authored by one house and
agreed to by the other, not requiring approval by the Governor (frequently pertaining to the business of the Legislature); House - measure originated and acted upon by one house.

RULES – methods of procedure: Joint - rules governing relationship between and affecting matters between the two houses; Standing - permanent rules adopted by each house, for its own governance; Temporary - practices usually adopted at the beginning of each session until Standing Rules are adopted, consisting generally of the Standing Rules of the preceding session.

S

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE - an officer of the Senate, elected by the members to direct the clerical staff, the preparation of daily printing and general publications, and to be of assistance to the presiding officer in interpreting the rules.

SESSION - period during which the Legislature meets: Regular – the biennial session at which all classes of legislation may be considered; Extraordinary - special session, called by, and limited to matters specified by the Governor; Daily-each day’s meetings; Joint - meeting of the two houses together.

SINE DIE – adjournment “without delay” being set for reconvening. Final adjournment.

SPEAKER – presiding officer of the Assembly, elected by the body at each session.

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE – (lit. for the time); substitute presiding officer, taking the chair on request of the Speaker, in his absence; elected by the body at each session.

SPOT BILL – measure, introduced in outline form, substance being amended into it at a future date.

SUSPEND THE CONSTITUTION – an action taken only in cases of emergency, requiring a two-thirds vote of the house, whereby the requirement of reading a bill on three separate days is temporarily suspended in relation to a specific measure.

T

THIRD HOUSE – lobbyists.

TITLE - a brief paragraph, identifying the subject matter and preceding the contents of a measure.
URGENCY – a matter affecting the public peace, health, or safety; any measure so defined goes into immediate effect.

VETO – action of a Governor in disapproval of a measure. May be overridden. Item veto - Governor may reduce or eliminate items of appropriation while approving rest of bill. May be overridden. Pocket veto – Governor fails to sign bill after final adjournment. Cannot be overridden. A pocket veto is no longer possible under California Constitution.
ANATOMY OF A BILL

Shows date and location (house) each time the bill is amended.

Sequential number as introduced in each house. This was the 1,449th Senate bill introduced in this two-year session.

Date of introduction.

Legislative Counsel is employed by the Legislature to draft all bills and write a summary digest describing how the bill will change current law.

The latest amendments to the bill are shown in italics, the wording being deleted is lined through. In the original bill, italics show words being added to existing law while words lined through are being deleted.

All bills making an appropriation or having major fiscal impact must be heard by the fiscal committee of each house. All bills making requirements of local governments must be identified.

Text of bill. This is the actual wording which will become part of the California Penal Code if the bill is enacted into law. A bill may be one or many pages in length. This bill actually repeals an old code section and adds a new one.

The title of the bill indicates the subject of the bill and the Section(s) and California Code(s) to be affected. Almost all of California's laws are organized into one of twenty-seven codes.

Most bills require a majority vote of both houses to pass and take effect on the first day of January following their enactment. Bills with appropriations or which are to take effect immediately require a 2/3 vote.

House of origin.

Principal author is listed first.

Cosponsors who wish to support or be identified with the bill. In this case, one of the cosponsors is a Democrat and the others are Republican.