

BILLS BEING AMENDED

Now that the essentially all bills have been introduced for 2002, the Legislature has turned its attention to getting those bills into shape. Only 31 new measures have been introduced in the two weeks since the Legislature returned on April 1 – and all but six of those have been mere resolutions. In contrast, 753 bills have been amended since that date – including 256 on April 1 alone.

To view the amendments as they are made, go to the [Bills Amended and Introduced](#) page maintained by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Those who wish to be alerted to amendments being made to a specific bill (or other changes in the bill's status) can obtain automatic updates by subscribing to that bill through the search engines maintained by the [Legislative Counsel Bureau](#), [State Senate](#), or [State Assembly](#). Go to the page for the bill in question, and click on the button (Leg Counsel) or link (Senate or Assembly) that says "Subscribe." On the resulting page, enter your email address and click "OK" (Leg Counsel or Assembly) or "Submit" (Senate). You will then automatically receive an email message alerting you to any change made in that bill or its status.

PRIVACY BILL HEARING MONDAY

[AB 1775](#) (Nation) will be heard on Monday, April 15 in the Assembly Banking Committee. The meeting starts at 4:00 p.m., in Room 444 in the old Capitol. AB 1775 would enact the Financial Privacy and Disclosure Protection Act of 2002 and become operative on July 1, 2004. The bill pertains to banks, insurance companies, and securities firms and personal information about their respective customers. The subject matter of this bill has been a very important and

controversial issue in the Capitol since 1999. Various Capitol sources and several major newspapers contend that AB 1775 is supported by Governor Davis. According to the Assembly Banking Committee analysis, no organization supports the bill, but numerous banks, insurance companies, and securities firms are opposed.

COUNTY LAW LIBRARY LEGISLATION

Assembly Member Mark Wyland (R-Escondido) has introduced legislation that could have a dramatic impact on the operations of county law libraries around the state. The measure, [AB 2648](#), would require the libraries to pay for the cost of their quarters out of funds collected from surcharges on civil filing fees. The current statute, (B&P Code §6361), requires county boards of supervisors to "...provide sufficient quarters for the use of the library upon the request of the board of law library trustees." The statute defines quarters to include, among other things, rooms, suitable furniture, lighting, heat, telephones and janitorial service.

County law librarians assert that passage of AB 2648 would effectively lead to the abrupt closure of many of their facilities. The funding problem is compounded by the fact that any increase in civil filing fees needed to cover the additional cost associated with payment for quarters requires the approval of a resolution by the county board of supervisors. Many boards have been very reluctant to approve such fee increases in the past, leaving the libraries with few options other than cutting back on publications or reducing services.

The Council of California County Law Librarians is vigorously attempting to secure state funding to help address an estimated \$11million annual shortfall in county law library operating revenues.