



# Priority FOCUS

10.A-1  
October 9, 2003  
Issue #40-2003

analysis, commentary and updates on legislative and policy issues that affect California cities

## Hot Bills

### Act Now

The legislature is in Interim Recess. It will reconvene January 5, 2004.

Want more details on these and other bills? Log on to the League of California Cities Web site at [www.cacities.org/legtracking](http://www.cacities.org/legtracking).

## LEAGUE'S POSITION ON VLF: KEEP LOCAL SERVICES FULLY FUNDED

With the recent increase in the vehicle license fee (VLF) figuring highly in the just completed recall election, city officials and the news media have begun to ask what the impact will be of Governor-elect Schwarzenegger's promise to reduce the fee. While it is crystal clear from his campaign statements that the Governor-elect supports reducing the VLF, we do not have detailed information on how the plan will be implemented or how he will deal with "backfilling" cities and counties as a result. *For more, see page 2.*

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## FEDERAL INTERNET BILLS THREATEN LOCAL REVENUES URGENT CALL FOR CITY LETTERS

Two identical bills currently moving through Congress, H.R. 49 (Cox) and S. 150 (Allen), threaten to fundamentally undermine the telecommunications tax revenue base for local governments throughout California. The Internet Tax Freedom Act of 1998 prevented state and local governments from imposing a tax on Internet access services. Under current law, Internet access does not include telecommunications services. However, H.R. 49 and S. 150 would expand the coverage of the moratorium by adding "telecommunications services" to the definition of Internet access. *For more, see page 3.*

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## STATE CONTROLLER WILL PROVIDE VLF GAP DETAILS

State Controller Steve Westly has agreed to a request from the League and CSAC to provide a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction accounting of the actual VLF "gap" money owed to local government, and scheduled to be repaid in August, 2006. We expect an initial accounting hopefully no later than January, with a final accounting at the end of the fiscal year. As soon as this information is available, we will share it with you.

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FIRE CHIEFS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR  
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## LEAGUE'S ONLINE CALENDAR HELPS YOU BUDGET FOR 2004 MEETINGS

Visit the League's website often ([www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events)) for a complete schedule of upcoming meetings. View dates, locations and pricing information up to a year in advance. You can register online, view current program, and use this information to help plan your meeting schedule and budget expenses for the upcoming year. New 2004 meeting information is currently available and continuously updated.

### REGISTER NOW!

## FIRE CHIEFS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR DECEMBER 10-12 2003, MONTEREY

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Wildland Urban Interface
- Interagency Communications Interoperability
- Continuity of Service in a Disaster
- Joint Fire and Police Programs
- Binding Arbitration
- Public Roadway Widths
- Saving Local Democracy

### Thursday Lunch

"Cubicle Comedy" by Jan McInnis, writer for the "Tonight Show"

### Thursday Evening

Hosted Strolling Reception & Mini Exposition

### Friday's Keynote

John Alston - Stuff Happens (and then you fix it)

Register online by visiting the League's website at [www.cacities.org/ed](http://www.cacities.org/ed)

## ELECTION from page 1 .....

We were pleased with his statements during the campaign expressing his belief that cities and counties should be kept whole in the process, but the details are not yet clear. In contrast, Senator John Burton reportedly said in a Wednesday press conference that if the new governor proposes to restore the VLF tax cut, the legislature will not be willing to backfill local government, and that cities and counties would be on their own. These contradictory positions signal possibly strong disagreement between the legislature and the new governor, and underscore the importance of the governor-elect coming out soon with details of how his VLF reduction plan would work.

The facts as to the importance of VLF are clear and compelling. On average, two out of every three VLF dollars statewide pay for vital local public safety and public health services. A loss of this revenue would mean drastic reductions in police, fire, EMS and public health staff and services. We estimate that an elimination of the VLF without a stable backfill plan in place would reduce city VLF revenues by about 75% each month after it goes into effect. Clearly such revenue losses would be devastating to the safety and health of our communities.

The League's position on the VLF remains the same as it has been since the first VLF reduction in 1998: this funding that pays for critical local fire, police and health care services must be continued to be paid to local governments. Whether that funding comes from the VLF or from some other source preferred by the new Governor and legislators is less important than that police, fire and other essential local services are fully funded.

The League congratulates Governor-elect Schwartzengger on his recent election and is committed to working with him and the legislature in finding ways to make that happen while keeping local government funding whole. We will keep you posted as developments unfold.

## INTERNET TAX from page 1 .....

This definitional change would prohibit a local tax on any "telecommunication service" that is used for Internet access. Nearly all telephone services, including local dial up, wireless, satellite, and broadband (DSL and cable modem), provide Internet access. H.R. 49 and S. 150 will limit the extent to which cities that rely on existing local utilities taxes can finance essential services, such as police, fire, streets, and parks.

Moreover, the situation is likely to get worse in the future. Soon, major telephone and Internet service providers will offer "packages" that bundle together Internet access and unlimited telephone services. Unfortunately, under the proposed language, such bundled services will likely be considered "tax-free", in a manner that is regressive and unfair. Even if the average consumer continues to be subject to the local tax (UUT) on traditional telecommunication services, those persons who could afford computers and high-speed Internet access (i.e., DSL and cable modem) would slip through this loophole and permanently escape taxation on similar services.

### LETTERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

The League alerted cities about this issue in September. Since that time, the House of Representatives swiftly approved H.R. 49 *with* the overly broad definition of Internet access. The Senate is our last chance to strike the extremely broad language in the federal legislation by convincing our Senators to oppose the expansion of the definition in the Senate version of the Internet Tax Bill (S.150) and instead maintain the definition of Internet Access under current law.

The League is asking cities that impose local taxes on telecommunications or cable services to *personalize* and send a newly drafted letter to both California Senators **IMMEDIATELY**, urging them to remove the detrimental expansion of the definition of "Internet Access" from the "Internet Tax Non-Discrimination Act of 2003" (S.150).

A sample letter is available at the League's Federal Issues Webpage: [www.cacities.org/federal](http://www.cacities.org/federal). Please FAX YOUR LETTERS IN ASAP,

the Senate is likely to act on the bill any day. Don't forget to Cc the League, we're tracking city opposition.

Please contact Jessica Mullan ([jmullan@cacities.org](mailto:jmullan@cacities.org), 916.658.8243) with the League if you have additional questions about this federal legislation. FAX #s for each Senator can be found below.

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Fax: (202) 228-3954; Senator Barbara Boxer, Fax: (415) 956-6701 (automatically forwards to DC).

## 2003 NEW LAW & ELECTION SEMINAR MONTEREY, DECEMBER 10-12, 2003

Register at [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events) today for the 2003 City Clerks' New Law & Election Seminar. Join your colleagues in beautiful Monterey for a jam-packed seminar.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The Art of Taking Minutes and Crafting Agenda Reports Guidelines for Notice of Public Hearings, Meetings and Actions
- The Ethos of Ethics
- New Law & Election Update
- Leaders are Made, Not Born
- Saving Local Democracy – the November 2004 Ballot
- Stuff Happens (and then you fix it!) Mini-expo

For further information email Lorraine Okabe at [okabel@cacities.org](mailto:okabel@cacities.org) or call (916) 658-8236.

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ANALYSIS, COMMENTARY & UPDATES  
**PRIORITY FOCUS**  
ON LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ISSUES THAT AFFECT CALIFORNIA CITIES

October 17, 2003  
Issue #41-2003

**CONTACT THE GOVERNOR-ELECT NOW!  
FUNDING FOR LOCAL SERVICES MUST BE PROTECTED**

**Hot Bills  
Act Now**

The legislature is in Interim Recess. It will reconvene January 5, 2004.

As you are probably aware, Governor-elect Schwarzenegger has stated that one of the first actions he will take when sworn into office is to repeal the increase in the Vehicle License Fees (VLF). While this statement seems clear, there is great debate about whether, and how he could "unpull the trigger." And, if he could do it, what impact his actions would have on local government revenues.

We believe that the Governor-elect understands the importance of the services the VLF revenues support – police, fire, public health, and more. In his speech to the League of California Cities' 2002 Annual Conference, he talked about the services local governments provide, and how they are critical to creating vibrant, healthy, and strong communities. In that same speech, Schwarzenegger went on to suggest that they took great pains in crafting Proposition 49 (the after school program initiative) in such a way that it would not take away money from vital local services. This, and comments he's made throughout the campaign, reflect a general commitment to local governments. *For more, see page 2.*

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**INITIATIVE MEASURE BEING READIED FOR FILING**

Over the last three weeks separate teams of city attorneys and county counsels have been generously advising the League, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and special legal counsel for the initiative campaign as the final ballot measure wording is being refined. The League, CSAC and the California Special Districts Association on the November 2004 ballot are sponsoring the initiative. *For more, see page 3.*

*Want more details on these and other bills? Log on to the League of California Cities Web site at [www.cacities.org/legtracking](http://www.cacities.org/legtracking).*

- Page 2 ANNOUNCING THE LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS  
GETTING THE WORD OUT ON THE BALLOT MEASURE  
AB 719 CALCULATIONS OFFERED BY CALPERS**
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**VLF from page 1** .....

While we don't believe the Governor-elect's VLF proposal is intended to cut 13,000 peace officers or 16,000 firefighters (the estimated annual impact of "unpulling the trigger" without guaranteeing the equivalent revenues) – it's critical that we remind him just how this scenario could effect cities throughout California.

We are urging city officials from around the state to contact Governor-elect Schwarzenegger directly and tell him what a cut in VLF could mean to you. Go to: [www.cacities.org](http://www.cacities.org) to view a sample letter, and an updated list of annual VLF revenues, by city, where you'll find information you can reference. Please send a copy of your communication to the League c/o Jean Korinke, [jkorinke@cacities.org](mailto:jkorinke@cacities.org), fax (916) 658-8240.

The League is continuing to investigate the potential options the Governor-elect might have in "unpulling the trigger," and communicating directly with members of the transition team to ensure they are aware of the potential impacts this could have on local governments if the funding is not preserved. We will keep you updated as information becomes available.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS ARE GETTING THE WORD OUT ON THE BALLOT MEASURE**

Upcoming presentations by **Chris McKenzie** about the League's plans for a ballot measure:

- October 23rd, American Public Works Association, Southern California Chapter meeting in Santa Fe Springs.
- October 24rd, Westside Cities Council of Governments meeting at Beverly Hills City Hall.

Recent and upcoming presentations by **Ann Marie Wallace** about the League's plans for a ballot measure:

- South Bay and Westside Fire Chiefs Association held on Oct. 16th in El Segundo
- Oct. 21st and 23rd, Palos Verdes Estates city-wide employee meetings at city hall.

**ANNOUNCING THE LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS**

The League will be hosting Legislative briefings Wednesday, November 19 in Ontario and Friday, November 21 in Sacramento. The briefings are designed to apprise all elected and non-elected city officials of new legislation that impact their cities, and what to expect from the 2004 legislative session. To learn more about the program [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events).

This is the best program to learn how your city will be affected by the new legislation and how you need to adapt to the new laws. Don't miss this timely briefing!

The registration deadline is **Friday, November 14, 2003**. Full payment must accompany the registration form. Please fax your registration form to (916) 658-8220 or register online at [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events). If you have questions, please contact the League Conference Registration Office at (916) 658-8291.

Be sure to register early because space is limited. Only advance registration is available for this workshop.

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**AB 719 CALCULATIONS OFFERED BY CALPERS**

AB 719, Public Employees Retirement: Retirement Benefit Enhancement, authorizes specified members of the CalPERS system to elect to make additional contributions and receive up to five years of additional retirement service credit, known as the "air-time bill". Contributions from members will be deposited in the Public Employees' Retirement Fund. This benefit will be available to employees in CalPERS on January 1, 2004 without a contract amendment. The employee solely pays this benefit.

In December, employees can access an on-line calculator on the CalPERS website, [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) that will allow employees to calculate their five additional service costs. After employees calculate their cost and are interested in additional contributions, they can contact CalPERS.

We will notify CalPERS members when that on-line calculation process is up and running.

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## EMPLOYER REQUIRED HEALTH CARE BENEFITS BILL (SB 2) PHASE-IN CLAUSE

The Governor signed SB 2, which requires every employer in the State to provide health care benefits to their "full-time" employees. This proposal has a phase-in clause that will not take effect until 2006 and 2007. Guidelines and regulations will be developed over the next several months to identify how the State will get around the current federal ERISA standards, how this will apply to dependents and spouses who already receive benefits through their spouses employers, etc.

Employers pay into a state healthcare fund that provides coverage or are required to provide coverage directly. Employer coverage is subject to the same coverage requirements and employee contribution limitations as the newly created State program.

Applies To:

- Employers of 20-49: employees only (This mandate is suspended until a tax credit is adopted in the future)
- Employers of 50-199: employees only
- Employers of 200 or more: employees and dependents

"Employee" means a person who works at least 100 hours per month for an individual employer (23 hours per week). The employee must have worked for that employer for a minimum of three months.

### Mechanics of the State Run System:

Employers and employees contribute a fee to the Employment Development Department (amount to be determined).

- A fee of at least 80% from employers
- A fee of no more than 20% from employees
- Low-wage workers (employees earning less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) cannot be required to pay a fee more than 5% of their wages.

### Phase In:

- January 1, 2006 for large employers (200 or more)
- January 1, 2007 for medium employers (50-199)
- January 1, 2007 for medium employers (20-49) This group is exempt from the requirement until a tax credit is passed to reduce their net costs by 20%

### INITIATIVE from page 1 .....

The purpose of this step of the drafting process has been to make sure the final language is clear to some of the preminent municipal finance law experts around the state and provides the level of protection desired by the local government sponsors. The month long drafting process also has allowed other consultants to the League to help shape the measure for maximum impact. Once finalized, it will be filed (possibly as early as next week) with the Attorney General.

While the final drafting has been underway, city councils across the state have been considering and adopting resolutions of support for the initiative measure that would amend the constitution to require voter approval before the legislature can again take local revenues that fund vital community public safety and other programs. The initiative also brings some much-needed reforms to the existing unfunded mandate reimbursement process.

According to the revised timetable, signature gathering could commence in December and plans are being made to kick it off with the help of local officials around the state. For information on how you can help, please contact your League Regional Representative (see [www.cacities.org/reps](http://www.cacities.org/reps)) or visit the CITIPAC website at [www.citipac.org](http://www.citipac.org).

# Legislative Bill Action

The following are summaries of just a few of the legislative bills that are currently being acted upon by the League of California Cities. For more information about these and other bills, please visit the League website's new "Issues and Advocacy" page ([www.cacities.org/issuesandadvocacy](http://www.cacities.org/issuesandadvocacy)) – a one-stop location to access information about legislation, policy issues and related developments. You can track information on bills ([www.cacities.org/legtracking](http://www.cacities.org/legtracking)), locate legislators and legislative committees, send letters to legislators or the media through the online Advocacy Center, research League policy positions, access useful related links, and much more.

## REVENUE AND TAXATION

**AB 94 (Chu). Property Taxation. Pension Funding.** AB 94 deals with a long-standing issue of voter-approved, extraordinary property rates to help fund public pension debt. **Staff:** Jean Korinke; **Status:** Vetoed; **Position:** Support.

**AB 1368 (Kehoe) Bonds.** AB 1368 requires head of state agencies that administer specific bond funds to report on the projects funded. **Staff:** Jean Korinke, **Status:** Signed, **Chapter 770, Statutes of 2003; Position:** Support.

**SB 83 (Soto and Romero) Local Agency Assessments.** SB 83 adds assessments in the exceptions to the notice, protest and hearing requirements on rate increases under Proposition 218. SB 83 would also relieve an agency of notice and hearing requirements on rate adjustments in subsequent years if an assessment formula or range of assessments was adopted in previous years following appropriate notice and hearing requirements and adoption by the governing board. **Staff:** Jean Korinke, **Status:** Vetoed; **Position:** Support.

**SB 114 (Torlakson). Financial Assistance. Relocation of Vehicle Dealers and Big Box Retailers.** Local government agencies would be prohibited from offering incentives to lure big box retailers or vehicle dealers to their area from another jurisdiction in their local market area. **Staff:** Jean Korinke; **Status:** Signed, **Chapter 781, Statutes of 2003; Position:** Support.

**SB 157 (Bowen and Alpert). Sales and Use Taxes: Uniformity.** SB 157 creates the Streamlined Sales Tax Project that establishes a board to represent California in discussions with other states on the national project to simplify use tax collection. **Staff:** Jean Korinke, **Status:** Signed, **Chapter 702, Statutes of 2003; Position:** Support.

**SB 566 (Scott). Transactions and use tax. Maximum allowable rate.** SB 566 provides all cities and counties the option to increase or extend the transactions and use tax in their community if approved by both the local governing body and a majority or super-majority of local voters. **Staff:** Jean Korinke; **Status:** Signed, **Chapter 709, Statutes of 2003; Position:** Support.

**SB 1009 (Alpert). Use tax collection: public contracts: income tax forms.** SB 1009 would require vendors that contract with the State of California to submit a valid California seller's permit or certificate of registration and would also provide for individual reporting of use tax on personal income tax returns. **Staff:** Jean Korinke; **Status:** Signed, **Chapter 718, Statutes of 2003; Position:** Support.

**SB 1062 (Committee on Revenue and Taxation). Taxation.** A technical clean-up bill that removes the sunset on AB990 of 1999 that establishes a program through which cities and counties and the State Board of Equalization may share information on seller's permits and business licenses for the purpose of enforcing business license and sales tax collection provisions. **Staff:** Jean Korinke; **Status:** Signed, **Chapter 126,**

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## Legislative Bill Action

Statutes of 2003; Position: Support.

### TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS

**SB 868 (Dunn). Prevailing Wages.** This new law provides that per diem wages shall additionally be deemed to include worker protection and assistance programs or committees, and industry advancement and collective bargaining agreement administrative fees. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Oppose.

**SB 966 (Alarcon). Prevailing Wages on Public Works: Contractor's Cost.** This law authorizes a contractor to bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover from an awarding body labor costs, penalties, and legal fees where the awarding body affirmatively represented in writing that the work was not a public work or the awarding body received actual written notice from the DIR that the project was a public work but failed to disclose that fact to the contractor. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 804, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Oppose.

**AB 453 (Yee). Public Works Contracts: Compensation of Contractors.** This law provides that when a project for the construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of any structure, building, or road, or other improvement of any kind is competitively bid and any intended or actual award of the contract is challenged, the contract may be entered into pending final decision on the challenge. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 678, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Oppose.

**SB 460 (Alpert). Transportation Funding Maintenance of Effort.** This law suspends the current MOE requirements in AB 2928 for cities and counties during any fiscal year in which the transfer of revenues from the General Fund (GF) to the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) is

suspended under provisions in the state constitution as added by Proposition 42 during the March 2002 election. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 716, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

### HOUSING AND LAND USE

**AB 944 (Steinberg). Parking and Business Improvement Areas. Benefit Assessments.** This measure makes Business Improvement Districts (BID) law more flexible for local governments. **AB 944** enhances city capacity for establishing and managing these districts by expanding city authority to collect assessments to support local efforts to provide improvements and promote activities that benefit real property or business in a designated improvement area. **Staff:** Dan Carrigg; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 763, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 218 (Simitian) Housing Elements: Definitions.** **AB 218** requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to defer to the Department of Finance in any disputes over the application of the "housing unit" definition. The bill directs the Department of Finance to make a written determination about the dispute based on the most recent definition of a housing unit from the United States Census Bureau. **Staff:** Dan Carrigg; **Status:** Vetoed; **Position:** Support.

**AB 1631 (Salinas). School Facilities.** **AB 1631** will allow a school district to receive a supplemental grant if it wishes to replace a school's current facility with a multi-story building without requiring the school to operate on an multi-track, year-round (MTYR) schedule. **Staff:** Dan Carrigg; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 904, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**AB 71 (Horton). Tobacco Retail Licensing.** **AB 71** would establish a statewide licensing

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system for retail sales and distribution of tobacco products. It would not restrict the ability of local governments to enact and enforce their own licensing programs. **Staff:** Yvonne Hunter; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 890, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**SB 196 (Kuehl). Regional Water Quality Control Board. Local Government Members.** SB 196 clarifies that the municipal member of a regional water quality control board shall be a mayor or council member. **Staff:** Yvonne Hunter; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 272, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Sponsor.

**SB 20 (Sher). E-Waste.** SB 20 establishes a comprehensive program to encourage the collection and recycling of electronic waste – specifically computer monitors and televisions. It would establish an upfront fee to be paid by consumers at the time of purchase. **Staff:** Yvonne Hunter; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 526, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 28 (Jackson). Bottle Bill.** AB 28 would, among other provisions, increase the redemption value on beverage containers covered under the bottle bill. The refund value on beverage containers would be to 4 cents (8 cents on larger containers), with an automatic step up to 5 cents (and 10 cents for larger containers), if recycling rates fail to reach 80 percent. **Staff:** Yvonne Hunter; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 753, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 1051 (Goldberg). Capital Facility Fees. Municipal Utilities.** AB 1051 was one of the most important bills impacting municipal water, wastewater and energy utilities. It clarified existing law regarding imposition of capital facility fees charged to other public agencies. Enactment of legislation of this nature is necessary to avoid continued frivolous litigation brought by schools and other public agencies. **Staff:** Yvonne Hunter; **Status:** Vetoed; **Position:** Support.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**AB 49 (Simitian). Crime.** AB 49 establishes the High Technology Crime Advisory Committee to formulate a comprehensive written strategy for addressing high technology crime throughout the state. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 618, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 319 (Frommer). Firearms.** AB 319 prohibits juveniles that are convicted of carrying a loaded or concealed weapon from possessing a firearm until they reach the age of 30. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 490, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 1044 (Negrete McLeod). Licenses to Carry Firearms.** AB 1044 makes specified changes in the statutes pertaining to licenses to carry concealable weapons (CCWs) in California. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 541, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**SJR 6 (Soto). Terrorism: Funding for First Responder Training.** SJR 6 calls upon Congress and the President of the United States to provide additional funding to the states for first responder training *for the men and women defending our citizens at home*. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 137, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**SB 621 (Burton). Indian Gaming.** SB 621 provides for the allocation of the Special Distribution Fund monies estimated at \$26 million for mitigation of tribal gaming with the intent of addressing impacts on local governments and neighboring communities. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 858, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Oppose.

**SB 814 (Vincent). Gambling.** SB 814 modifies license requirements for card clubs. Specifically, it increases a moratorium on the construc-

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tion and licensing of new non-Indian gambling establishments (i.e., card clubs) from January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2010. **SB 814** also authorizes the California Gambling Control Commission to renew a gambling license for a period of up to two years. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 799, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Oppose.

**SB 824 (Scott). Firearms.** **SB 824** allows licensing authorities to impose greater security requirements than required in state law to authorize firearms dealers to: require employees of dealers to obtain background checks involving a Certificate of Eligibility; and, specifically requires that dealers prohibit specified employees from possessing firearms or having access to firearms. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 502, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**SB 911 (Alpert). Local Emergency Telephone Systems, 911 Administrative Board.** **SB 911** creates a State 911 Advisory Board appointed by the Governor to advise the Telecommunications Division of specified subject areas. **Staff:** Natasha Fooman; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 631, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

**SB 440 (Burton). Employer-employee relations, law enforcement officers and firefighters.** **SB 440** requires that the binding interest arbitration award for police and firefighters be overturned only by unanimous vote of the elected body. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 877, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Oppose.

**AB 457 (Negrete-McLeod) Public Employees Retirement. Early Retirement.** This bill would have offered a golden handshake for local agencies under the CalPERS system, whereby 2 years of additional service credit would be offered, and/or two years of age. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Vetoed; **Position:** Neutral.

**SB 227/228(Alarcon/Vargas) Workers'**

**Compensation.** This package included significant workers' compensation reform. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Signed, Chapters 635 and 639 Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 719 (Negrete-McLeod) Public Employees Retirement: Retirement Benefits- AB 719** elects to make additional 5 years of service credit under PERS to be paid for by the employee. This bill does not require a contract amendment. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 838, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Neutral.

**SB 2 (Burton) Employer Required Health Care Benefit.** This bill requires employers to provide health care to their full-time employees. Full-time is defined as working over 100 hours per month for over three consecutive months. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 673, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Neutral.

**AB 1082 Laird) Public Employees Health Care Benefits: Domestic Partners.** This bill provides domestic partnership benefits for heterosexual couples through PERS. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 764, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 1321 (Oropeza) Public Employees Retirement System: Reports to Contracting Agencies.** This bill requires PERS to provide actuarial information in a more timely fashion to contracting agencies who request it. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 848, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 274 (Koretz) Employment.** The bill would limit an employer's ability to enforce any adverse employee actions within 90 days after an employee makes a complaint to the Labor Commissioner. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Vetoed; **Position:** Oppose.

### ELECTIONS

**AB 1544 (Simitian). Mail Ballot Elections.** **AB 1544** allows cities with a population of 100,000

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or less to conduct all-mail ballot elections to fill a vacancy in a special election. **Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** SIGNED, Chapter 401, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Support.

**AB 1521 (Parra & Pacheco) Municipal Elections.** **AB 1521** clarifies several provisions of the Elections Code:

- Requires a general municipal election held on the same date as a statewide election to be consolidated with that statewide election.
  - Identifies dates on which a mail ballot election may be held.
  - Requires the randomized alphabet drawn for purposes of the first election held by a charter city that holds 2 elections in the same year which occur on other than one of the 4 major election dates, may be used for both of those elections.
- Staff:** Amy Brown; **Status:** Signed, Chapter 824, Statutes of 2003; **Position:** Sponsor.

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