

SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

1755 CREEKSIDE OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833
(916) 263-5506
(916) 263-0594 FAX
INTERNET: www.seismic.ca.gov

**Memorandum**

March 2, 2005

To: Commissioners

From: Henry Sepulveda
Director of Legislative Affairs

Subj: Legislative Report

February 21 was the deadline for the introduction of new bills to be considered in the 2005 portion of the 2005-06 Legislative Session. Approximately 2,500 new bills have been introduced. Of the newly introduced measures, staff has identified 40 bills of interest to the Commission.

Table 1 presents a summary of these bills.

Commission-sponsored legislative proposals for 2005

AB 584 (Blakeslee) – This Commission-sponsored bill deletes current provisions relating to a 1991 Conference on earthquake technologies. The Conference was co-sponsored by the Commission. The statutory provisions are all obsolete, however, a small amount of residual funds remain in a unique account that was set up specifically for the Conference. The bill deletes the obsolete sections of law and appropriates the residual funds (< \$500) to the Commission's 2005-06 operating budget.

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, a professional seismologist, agreed to carry this bill for the Commission. Assemblyman Blakeslee represents the San Luis Obispo area in the State Assembly.

No hearing date has been scheduled for this bill.

AB 970 (Yee) – This measure is rooted in the recommendations included in the Commission's January 2005 Report on the safety of California's private, charter and public schools. In 1999, the Commission sponsored AB 300 (Corbett) that directed the Division of the State Architect to undertake a survey of California's schools to assess their seismic vulnerability. The State Architect's report was released in 2002.

However, because AB 300 prohibited the State Architect from specifically identifying schools and campuses in its public report, affected schools and school districts do not know which of their facilities the State Architect found at-risk. To address this gap in communication, this bill allows schools and school districts to obtain the information and be immunized from liability for a period up to four years after securing the information.

This is the third bill that Speaker Pro Tem Yee carries for the Commission. He was the author of two successfully enacted Commission-sponsored bills in 2004.

No hearing date has been scheduled for this bill.

AB 1374 (Liu) – This bill repeals the existing sunset on the Commission’s funding arrangement with the Insurance Fund. Under current law, the Commission’s annual budget is supported by a small assessment on in-force commercial and homeowner property insurance policies. The authority for the assessment sunsets on July 1, 2007. This bill makes the funding arrangement permanent by removing the 2007 sunset language.

Assemblywoman Carol Liu of Pasadena, the Assembly representative on the Commission, has carried several Commission-sponsored bills since her election in 2002.

No hearing date has been scheduled for this bill.

SB 1054 (Soto) – Like AB 970 (Yee), this measure is also rooted in the recommendations included in the Commission’s January 2005 Report on the safety of California’s private, charter and public schools. This bill imposes a threshold building code standard on charter schools. The Commission’s 2005 study discovered that local building departments were overlooking some existing charter schools because existing law was unclear about the applicable building code requirements. This bill addresses that ambiguity by providing that charter school facilities must comply with the California Building Code. (Public school buildings must comply with the Field Act, a more stringent building code than the California Building Code.)

This is the first bill that Senator Soto of San Bernardino carries for the Commission.

No hearing date has been scheduled for this bill

Other Introduced Bills for 2005

Staff review of other bills introduced to-date identified approximately 35 other bills that affect the Commission, or affect areas of interest to the Commission. Those bills are listed below, grouped by subject areas. (Table 1 provides a descriptive summary of all these, as well as the Commission-sponsored, bills.)

<p><u>Schools</u></p> <p>AB 39 AB 58 AB 970* SB 1054*</p>	<p><u>Field Act</u></p> <p>AB 162</p>	<p><u>Hospital Seismic Safety</u></p> <p>AB 44 AB 1047 AB 1275 AB 1316 AB 1639 AB 1673 SB 167 SB 224 SB 491 SB 1024</p>	<p><u>Construction/ Building Codes</u></p> <p>AB 262 AB 304 AB 1297</p>
<p><u>Emergency Preparedness</u></p> <p>AB 211 AB 287 SB 477 SB 546 SB 995</p>	<p><u>Retrofitting</u></p> <p>AB 350 AB 1679</p>	<p><u>Insurance</u></p> <p>AB 527 SB 2 SB 1090</p>	<p><u>Natural Hazards</u></p> <p>AB 1083 AB 1200 AB 1632 HR 4</p>
<p><u>Seismic Safety Commission</u></p> <p>AB 584* AB 1374*</p>	<p><u>CA Performance Review</u></p> <p>AB 38</p>	<p><u>Bay Bridge</u></p> <p>AB 1714 SB 172 SB 1024</p>	

* -- Indicates legislation sponsored by the Seismic Safety Commission.