Recent Legislative Policy Outcomes in Support of Earthquake Risk Reduction: A State Perspective

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Two Paths

- Policy Bill Process
  - For relatively inexpensive proposals
  - Enacted January 1 or immediately, if an urgency

- Budget Process
  - For relatively costly proposals
  - Enacted July 1
THE LIFE CYCLE OF LEGISLATION
From Idea into Law

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE

Although the procedure can become complicated, this chart shows the essential steps for passage of a bill.

Typical committee actions are used to simplify the course of legislation. Some bills require hearings by more than one committee, in which case a committee may re-examine the bill to another committee. For example, bills with monetary implications must be re-referred to the proper fiscal committee in each house before they are sent to the second reading floor and final action.

A bill may be amended at various times as it moves through the houses. The bill must be reprinted each time an amendment is adopted by either house. All bill actions are printed in the DAILY FILES, JOURNALS AND HISTORIES.

If a bill is amended in the opposite house, it returns to the House of Origin for concurrence in amendments. If House of Origin does not concur, a Conference Committee is appointed to resolve. Any amendments then be adopted by each house before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

BECOMES LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE

SIGN
GOVERNOR

RETURN TO HOUSE OF ORIGIN FOR CONCURRENCE

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE AFTER RETURN TO HOUSE

RULES COMMITTEE

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How a Bill Becomes Law

As Introduced

As Amended in Committee

As Amended on Second Reading

As Enacted

As Funded by Joint Budget Committee

As Implemented by the State Agency

As Reported by the Media

As Understood by the Public

What was Actually Needed
Policy Bill Process (Simplified)

- Bill introduced in first house
  - Reviewed by policy and fiscal committees
  - Floor vote (by end of May)

- Bill moves to second house
  - Reviewed by policy and fiscal committees
  - Floor vote (by September 15 in odd years, August 31 in even years)

- Bill goes to Governor
  - Reviewed and acted on by mid-October

- Goes into law January 1, typically
Obstacles to the Policy Bill Process

- Policy
  - Is it necessary?

- Political
  - Supporters and Opponents

- Financial
  - Often, the best ideas aren’t free.
Overcoming the Obstacles

- Policy
  - Compromise, clarify, simplify

- Political
  - Engage stakeholders early and often

- Financial
  - Reduce costs, find alternate funding sources
Budget Process (Simplified)

- Governor releases budget proposal by January 10

- Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees review Governor’s proposal and develop their own versions
  - The two versions are reconciled into one

- Governor and Legislature determine funding priorities for upcoming year, starting July 1

- Assembly and Senate vote on bills in the budget package
  - Typically clustered together by issue areas: Health and Human Services, Education, etc.

- Bills in package go to Governor
  - Go into effect July 1 (if signed)
Assemblymember Nazarian’s Previous Seismic Efforts

2014
- AB 1510: Income taxes: credit: seismic retrofits (died Assembly Appropriations)

2015
- AB 428: Income taxes: credit: seismic retrofits (vetoed)
- AB 1440: Earthquake loss mitigation: grant programs (died Senate Insurance)

2016
- AB 2618: PACE financing: seismic safety (signed into law)
- AB 2392: California Seismic Safety Capital Access Loan Program (died Senate Governance and Finance but ultimately included in budget, see below)
- $10 Million Seismic Safety Revolving Loan Program
- $10 Million for an Earthquake Early Warning System
- $3 Million for Expanding the Brace + Bolt Program

2018
- AB 1857: Building codes: earthquake safety (vetoed)
- AB 2681: Earthquake mapping (vetoed)
- AB 2927: California Earthquake Authority insurance (signed into law)
Seismic Retrofit Tax Credit – A Journey

- AB 428 vetoed by Governor Brown in 2015
- AB 2392 re-introduced AB 428. Died in Senate Governance and Finance, but included in 2016 budget as a $10 million allocation for a Seismic Safety Revolving Loan Program
- AB 1547 (2018, Quirk-Silva) bill to clean-up Seismic Safety Revolving Loan Program
- AB 234 re-introduces AB 428 for the current session
Current Legislation

- AB 234: Seismic Retrofit Tax Credit
- AB 393: Building Codes
- AB 429: Earthquake Inventory
- AB 511: Early Warning Phone Alert System
THANK YOU!

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