

Assembly Bill No. 1095

Passed the Assembly September 2, 2003

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 27, 2003

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day of
_____, 2003, at _____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor



CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 70394 to the Government Code, relating to libraries.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1095, Corbett. County law libraries.

Existing law specifies the various duties of the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts, and provides for the establishment of county law libraries.

This bill would require the Judicial Council to establish a task force on county law libraries, consisting of 3 representatives from the judicial branch of government selected by the Administrative Director of the Courts, 3 representatives of the counties selected by the California State Association of Counties, and 3 county law library administrators selected by the Council of California County Law Librarians. The bill would require the task force to identify the needs related to county law library operations and facilities, make recommendations for funding county law library operations, facility improvements, and expansion, and submit its report and recommendations to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2005. The bill would also provide that the costs of the task force be at Judicial Council, county, and county law librarians' expense, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(a) County law libraries are a vital adjunct to the state judicial system, providing many individuals with an opportunity to readily access essential legal documents and publications.

(b) The fiscal health of county law libraries, and the ability of county law libraries to provide adequate, up-to-date publications and services, have a considerable impact on the quality of justice dispensed to citizens of California.

(c) For many individuals, the county law libraries represent the most accessible and affordable option for access to legal documents and publications.



(d) Many county law libraries are not able to acquire and maintain current publications and electronic access to pertinent materials, nor are they able to hire necessary staff. The current funding structure does not allow for adequate financial planning and falls substantially short of meeting necessary expenditures.

(e) Current revenues appear to be insufficient to provide the funding necessary to adequately finance the acquisition of equipment, publications, and staff for county law libraries.

(f) The counties of California are neither required nor able to provide county law libraries with additional support to offset or moderate the financial difficulties encountered by county law libraries throughout the state.

SEC. 2. Section 70394 is added to the Government Code, to read:

70394. (a) The Judicial Council shall establish a task force on county law libraries. The task force is charged with identifying the needs related to county law library operations and facilities, and identifying and making recommendations for funding county law library operations, facility improvements, and expansion.

(b) The task force shall consist of three representatives from the judicial branch of government, as selected by the Administrative Director of the Courts, three representatives of the counties, as selected by the California State Association of Counties, and three county law library administrators, as selected by the Council of California County Law Librarians. The Administrative Director of the Courts shall designate one of these representatives as chairperson of the task force.

(c) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff support for the task force and shall develop guidelines for procedures and practices for the task force.

(d) The duties of the task force shall include all of the following:

(1) Review the state of existing county law libraries.

(2) Examine existing standards for county law library operations.

(3) Document the funding mechanisms currently available for the maintenance and operation of county law library facilities.

(4) Recommend funding sources and financing mechanisms for support of county law library operations and facility maintenance.



(e) The task force shall be appointed on or before March 1, 2004. The task force shall submit its report and recommendations to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2005.

(f) The Judicial Council shall implement this section using existing resources. Any costs for counties and county law librarians to assist in the implementation of this section shall be at county or county law librarians' expense, respectively.



Approved _____, 2003

Governor

