

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1211

**Introduced by Committee on Public Safety (Hertzberg
(Chair), Goldsmith (Vice Chair), Bowler, House, Kuehl,
Murray, and Washington)**

February 28, 1997

An act to amend Section 273.8 of the Penal Code, relating to crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1211, as introduced, Committee on Public Safety. Crimes: spousal abuse.

Existing law finds that spousal abusers present a clear and present danger to the well-being of Californians, and states the intention of the Legislature to support increased efforts to prosecute spousal abuse.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change in that provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 273.8 of the Penal Code is
2 amended to read:

3 273.8. The Legislature hereby finds *and declares* that
4 spousal abusers present a clear and present danger to the
5 mental and physical well-being of the citizens of the State
6 of California. The Legislature further finds that the

1 concept of vertical prosecution, in which a specially
2 trained deputy district attorney, deputy city attorney, or
3 prosecution unit is assigned to a case after arraignment
4 and continuing to its completion, is a proven way of
5 demonstrably increasing the likelihood of convicting
6 spousal abusers and ensuring appropriate sentences for
7 those offenders. In enacting this chapter, the Legislature
8 intends to support increased efforts by district attorneys'
9 and city attorneys' offices to prosecute spousal abusers
10 through organizational and operational techniques that
11 have already proven their effectiveness in selected cities
12 and counties in this and other states.

