

Assembly Bill No. 1742

CHAPTER 706

An act to amend Section 6321 of the Business and Professions Code, to amend Section 43.55 of the Civil Code, to amend Sections 116.230, 116.330, 116.340, 116.780, 128.7, 396b, 415.21, 425.115, 998, 1141.21, and 1540 of, and to repeal and add Section 116.725 of, the Code of Civil Procedure, to amend Sections 811.9, 905, 910.4, 11135, 68085, 68085.1, 68085.4, 68086, 68086.1, 68090.8, 68511.3, 70601, 70626, 70640, 77207.5, and 77209 of, and to add Sections 905.7 and 68085.9 to, the Government Code, to amend Section 123.6 of the Labor Code, to amend Section 1214.1 of the Penal Code, and to amend Sections 16020 and 16058.1 of the Vehicle Code, relating to courts.

[Approved by Governor October 7, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State October 7, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1742, Committee on Judiciary. Courts.

(1) Under existing law, no liability or cause of action arises against a peace officer making an arrest pursuant to a warrant of arrest regular upon its face, if the peace officer acts without malice and in reasonable belief that the person arrested is the one referred to in the warrant.

This bill would provide that the term "warrant of arrest regular upon its face" includes both a paper arrest warrant issued pursuant to a judicial order and a judicial order entered into an automated warrant system by authorized law enforcement or court personnel, as specified.

(2) Existing law governs procedures in the small claims court. These provisions set forth various time periods for scheduling cases for hearing and specified methods for service of the claim and order on a defendant. These provisions state that they may not be construed to prevent a court from correcting a clerical error in a judgment or setting aside and vacating a judgment on the ground of an incorrect or erroneous legal basis for the decision.

This bill would provide that, when a claim is filed, the case shall be scheduled for hearing no earlier than 20 days and not more than 70 days from the date of the order, thereby eliminating the various time periods. The bill would require that proof of service of the claim and order be filed at least 5 days before the hearing. The bill would authorize a party to make only one motion to correct a clerical error or set aside and vacate a judgment and provide that a party may have 30 days after the clerk mails notice of entry of judgment to the parties to make that motion.

(3) Existing law requires, until January 1, 2006, that all pleadings filed with a court be signed, except as specified, and that the filing of any paper

with a court certifies that specified conditions have been satisfied. Existing law also specifies sanctions for violation of these requirements.

This bill would delete the repeal date of January 1, 2006, contained in these provisions and thereby extend indefinitely the operation of these provisions.

(4) Existing law authorizes a court in a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or legal separation and prior to the determination of a motion for a change of venue, to consider and make all necessary and proper orders in connection with motions for allowance of temporary spousal support, support of children, and counsel fees and costs.

This bill would revise that provision to additionally apply to proceedings under the Uniform Parentage Act and to authorize the court to consider and determine motions to determine custody of and visitation with children in any of the proceedings to which the provision applies prior to determining the motion for a change of venue.

(5) Existing law requires a person to be granted access to a staffed gated community for a reasonable time period for the purpose of performing lawful service of process, as specified.

This bill would also authorize access to a staffed gated community for the purpose of serving a subpoena.

(6) Existing law also governs offers by a party to compromise a dispute that is to be resolved by trial or arbitration.

This bill would require a written offer to compromise to include a statement of the offer and a provision that allows the accepting party to indicate acceptance of the offer by signing a statement that the offer is accepted, as specified. The bill would also require that any acceptance of the offer, whether made on the document containing the offer or on a separate document of acceptance, to be in writing and signed by the accepting party or his or her counsel, as specified.

(7) Existing law, the Unclaimed Property Law, governs the disposition of unclaimed property, including the escheat of certain property to the state. Those provisions set forth procedures whereby a person may file a claim to the property or to the net proceeds from its sale. Those provisions also specify the procedures for transferring the property from the holder of the property to the state and for administering the property. The Controller administers property that has escheated to the state, and is required to adopt guidelines and forms to provide specific instructions to assist owners, as defined, in filing claims with the state.

This bill would further define “owner” for purposes of those provisions to include a public administrator, as specified.

(8) Existing law sets forth the procedure for filing a claim against a statewide public entity, as specified.

This bill would specify that these procedures also apply to claims against a judicial branch entity, and would make a statement of legislative intent in that regard.

(9) Existing law provides that no person in the state shall, on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex,

color, or disability, be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to, discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency, is funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state.

This bill would clarify that those provisions apply to the California State University, and would make a statement of legislative intent in that regard.

(10) The Uniform Civil Fees and Standard Fee Schedule Act of 2005, as of January 1, 2006, establishes a uniform schedule of filing fees and other civil fees for the superior courts. Among other things, the act generally increases the filing fees for civil actions and proceedings, including, but not limited to, those fees related to small claims court, motions, appeals, judgments, the filing of the first paper in a civil action or proceeding in the superior court, in a limited civil case, and in complex cases, and in family law and probate matters, and fees for various certifications, recordings, filings, and the authentication of documents. The act also authorizes the court to charge a reasonable fee for videoconferencing, providing services or products, if approved by the Judicial Council, and handling funds held in trust for noncourt parties or entities. The act provides that none of these civil fees may be changed before January 1, 2008, except as specified.

This bill would make nonsubstantive technical changes to that act, and would make conforming changes to related provisions. The bill would also make related changes with regard to law library fees in Los Angeles County, law library funds, the Administrative Office of the Courts, court reporters, and the definition of “automated administrative systems” in the context of the act.

(11) Certain changes made by this bill to Section 116.230 of the Code of Civil Procedure and Section 68085.1 of the Government Code would only become operative if AB 1459 or SB 422 is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2006, and increases the jurisdictional limit of the small claims court.

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

SECTION 1. Section 6321 of the Business and Professions Code, as added by Section 7 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

6321. (a) On and after January 1, 2006, as described in Section 68085.1 of the Government Code, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall make monthly distributions from superior court filing fees to the law library fund in each county in the amounts described in this section and Section 6322.1. From each first paper filing fee as provided under Section 70611, 70612, 70613, 70614, or 70670 of the Government Code, each first paper or petition filing fee in a probate matter as provided under Section 70650, 70651, 70652, 70653, 70654, 70655, 70656, or 70658 of the

Government Code, Section 103470 of the Health and Safety Code, or Section 7660 of the Probate Code, each filing fee for a small claim or limited civil case appeal as provided under Section 116.760 of the Code of Civil Procedure or Section 70621 of the Government Code, and each vehicle forfeiture petition fee as provided under subdivision (e) of Section 14607.6 of the Vehicle Code, that is collected in each of the following counties, the amount indicated in this subdivision shall be paid to the law library fund in that county:

Jurisdiction	Amount
Alameda.....	\$31.00
Alpine.....	4.00
Amador.....	20.00
Butte.....	29.00
Calaveras.....	26.00
Colusa.....	17.00
Contra Costa.....	29.00
Del Norte.....	20.00
El Dorado.....	26.00
Fresno.....	31.00
Glenn.....	20.00
Humboldt.....	40.00
Imperial.....	20.00
Inyo.....	20.00
Kern.....	21.00
Kings.....	23.00
Lake.....	23.00
Lassen.....	25.00
Los Angeles.....	18.00
Madera.....	26.00
Marin.....	32.00
Mariposa.....	27.00
Mendocino.....	26.00
Merced.....	23.00
Modoc.....	20.00
Mono.....	20.00
Monterey.....	25.00
Napa.....	20.00
Nevada.....	23.00
Orange.....	29.00
Placer.....	29.00
Plumas.....	20.00
Riverside.....	26.00
Sacramento.....	44.00
San Benito.....	20.00
San Bernardino.....	23.00
San Diego.....	35.00

San Francisco.....	36.00
San Joaquin.....	23.00
San Luis Obispo.....	31.00
San Mateo.....	32.50
Santa Barbara.....	35.00
Santa Clara.....	26.00
Santa Cruz.....	29.00
Shasta.....	20.00
Sierra.....	20.00
Siskiyou.....	26.00
Solano.....	26.00
Sonoma.....	29.00
Stanislaus.....	18.00
Sutter.....	7.00
Tehama.....	20.00
Trinity.....	20.00
Tulare.....	29.00
Tuolumne.....	20.00
Ventura.....	26.00
Yolo.....	29.00
Yuba.....	7.00

(b) If a board of supervisors in any county acted before January 1, 2006, to increase the law library fee in that county effective January 1, 2006, the amount distributed to the law library fund in that county under subdivision (a) shall be increased by the amount that the board of supervisors acted to increase the fee, up to three dollars (\$3). Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 6322.1, as it read on January 1, 2005, the maximum increase permitted under this subdivision in Los Angeles County is three dollars (\$3), rather than two dollars (\$2).

SEC. 2. Section 43.55 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

43.55. (a) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action shall arise against, any peace officer who makes an arrest pursuant to a warrant of arrest regular upon its face if the peace officer in making the arrest acts without malice and in the reasonable belief that the person arrested is the one referred to in the warrant.

(b) As used in this section, a “warrant of arrest regular upon its face” includes both of the following:

- (1) A paper arrest warrant that has been issued pursuant to a judicial order.
- (2) A judicial order that is entered into an automated warrant system by law enforcement or court personnel authorized to make those entries at or near the time the judicial order is made.

SEC. 3. Section 116.230 of the Code of Civil Procedure, as added by Section 19 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

116.230. (a) In a small claims case, the clerk of the court shall charge and collect only those fees authorized under this chapter.

(b) If the party filing a claim has filed 12 or fewer small claims in the state within the previous 12 months, the filing fee is the following:

(1) Thirty dollars (\$30) if the amount of the demand is one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) or less.

(2) Fifty dollars (\$50) if the amount of the demand is more than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) but less than or equal to five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

(3) Seventy-five dollars (\$75) if the amount of the demand is more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

(c) If the party has filed more than 12 other small claims in the state within the previous 12 months, the filing fee is one hundred dollars (\$100).

(d) Each party filing a claim shall file a declaration with the claim stating whether that party has filed more than 12 other small claims in the state within the last 12 months.

(e) The clerk of the court shall deposit fees collected under this section into a bank account established for this purpose by the Administrative Office of the Courts and maintained under rules adopted by or trial court financial policies and procedures authorized by the Judicial Council under subdivision (a) of Section 77206 of the Government Code. The deposits shall be made as required under Section 68085.1 of the Government Code and trial court financial policies and procedures authorized by the Judicial Council.

(f) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall distribute six dollars (\$6) of each thirty-dollar (\$30) fee, eight dollars (\$8) of each fifty-dollar (\$50) fee, ten dollars (\$10) of each seventy-five-dollar (\$75) fee, and fourteen dollars (\$14) of each one hundred-dollar (\$100) fee collected under subdivision (b) or (c) to a special account in the county in which the court is located to be used for the small claims advisory services described in Section 116.940. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall also distribute two dollars (\$2) of each seventy-five-dollar (\$75) fee collected under subdivision (b) to the law library fund in the county in which the court is located. Records of these moneys shall be available for inspection by the public on request.

(g) The remainder of the fees collected under subdivisions (b) and (c) shall be transmitted monthly to the Controller for deposit in the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(h) This section and Section 116.940 shall not be applied in any manner that results in a reduction of the level of services, or the amount of funds allocated for providing the services described in Section 116.940, that are in existence in each county during the 2004–05 fiscal year. Nothing in this section shall preclude the county from procuring other funding to comply with the requirements of Section 116.940.

SEC. 4. Section 116.330 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

116.330. (a) When a claim is filed, the clerk shall schedule the case for hearing and shall issue an order directing the parties to appear at the time set for the hearing with witnesses and documents to prove their claim

or defense. The case shall be scheduled for hearing no earlier than 20 days but not more than 70 days from the date of the order.

(b) In lieu of the method of setting the case for hearing described in subdivision (a), at the time a claim is filed the clerk may do all of the following:

(1) Cause a copy of the claim to be mailed to the defendant by any form of mail providing for a return receipt.

(2) On receipt of proof that the claim was served as provided in paragraph (1), issue an order scheduling the case for hearing in accordance with subdivision (a) and directing the parties to appear at the time set for the hearing with witnesses and documents to prove their claim or defense.

(3) Cause a copy of the order setting the case for hearing and directing the parties to appear, to be served upon the parties by any form of mail providing for a return receipt.

SEC. 5. Section 116.340 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

116.340. (a) Service of the claim and order on the defendant may be made by any one of the following methods:

(1) The clerk may cause a copy of the claim and order to be mailed to the defendant by any form of mail providing for a return receipt.

(2) The plaintiff may cause a copy of the claim and order to be delivered to the defendant in person.

(3) The plaintiff may cause service of a copy of the claim and order to be made by substituted service as provided in subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 415.20 without the need to attempt personal service on the defendant. For these purposes, substituted service as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 415.20 may be made at the office of the sheriff or marshal who shall deliver a copy of the claim and order to any person authorized by the defendant to receive service, as provided in Section 416.90, who is at least 18 years of age, and thereafter mailing a copy of the claim and order to the defendant's usual mailing address.

(4) The clerk may cause a copy of the claim to be mailed, the order to be issued, and a copy of the order to be mailed as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 116.330.

(b) Service of the claim and order on the defendant shall be completed at least 15 days before the hearing date if the defendant resides within the county in which the action is filed, or at least 20 days before the hearing date if the defendant resides outside the county in which the action is filed.

(c) Proof of service of the claim and order shall be filed with the small claims court at least five days before the hearing.

(d) Service by the methods described in subdivision (a) shall be deemed complete on the date that the defendant signs the mail return receipt, on the date of the personal service, as provided in Section 415.20, or as established by other competent evidence, whichever applies to the method of service used.

(e) Service shall be made within this state, except as provided in subdivisions (f) and (g).

(f) The owner of record of real property in California who resides in another state and who has no lawfully designated agent in California for service of process may be served by any of the methods described in this section if the claim relates to that property.

(g) A nonresident owner or operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident within this state may be served pursuant to the provisions on constructive service in Sections 17450 to 17461, inclusive, of the Vehicle Code without regard to whether the defendant was a nonresident at the time of the accident or when the claim was filed. Service shall be made by serving both the Director of the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the defendant, and may be made by any of the methods authorized by this chapter or by registered mail as authorized by Section 17454 or 17455 of the Vehicle Code.

(h) If an action is filed against a principal and his or her guaranty or surety pursuant to a guarantor or suretyship agreement, a reasonable attempt shall be made to complete service on the principal. If service is not completed on the principal, the action shall be transferred to the court of appropriate jurisdiction.

SEC. 6. Section 116.725 of the Code of Civil Procedure is repealed.

SEC. 7. Section 116.725 is added to the Code of Civil Procedure, to read:

116.725. (a) A motion to correct a clerical error in a judgment or to set aside and vacate a judgment on the ground of an incorrect or erroneous legal basis for the decision may be made as follows:

(1) By the court on its own motion at any time.

(2) By a party within 30 days after the clerk mails notice of entry of judgment to the parties.

(b) Each party may file only one motion to correct a clerical error or to set aside and vacate the judgment on the ground of an incorrect or erroneous legal basis for the decision.

SEC. 8. Section 116.780 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

116.780. (a) The judgment of the superior court after a hearing on appeal is final and not appealable.

(b) Article 6 (commencing with Section 116.610) on judgments of the small claims court applies to judgments of the superior court after a hearing on appeal, except as provided in subdivisions (c) and (d).

(c) For good cause and where necessary to achieve substantial justice between the parties, the superior court may award a party to an appeal reimbursement of (1) attorney's fees actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the appeal, not exceeding one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), and (2) actual loss of earnings and expenses of transportation and lodging actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the appeal, not exceeding one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

SEC. 9. Section 128.7 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

128.7. (a) Every pleading, petition, written notice of motion, or other similar paper shall be signed by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name, or, if the party is not represented by an attorney, shall be signed by the party. Each paper shall state the signer's address and telephone number, if any. Except when otherwise provided by law, pleadings need not be verified or accompanied by affidavit. An unsigned paper shall be stricken unless omission of the signature is corrected promptly after being called to the attention of the attorney or party.

(b) By presenting to the court, whether by signing, filing, submitting, or later advocating, a pleading, petition, written notice of motion, or other similar paper, an attorney or unrepresented party is certifying that to the best of the person's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, all of the following conditions are met:

(1) It is not being presented primarily for an improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

(2) The claims, defenses, and other legal contentions therein are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law.

(3) The allegations and other factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, are likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery.

(4) The denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identified, are reasonably based on a lack of information or belief.

(c) If, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the court determines that subdivision (b) has been violated, the court may, subject to the conditions stated below, impose an appropriate sanction upon the attorneys, law firms, or parties that have violated subdivision (b) or are responsible for the violation. In determining what sanctions, if any, should be ordered, the court shall consider whether a party seeking sanctions has exercised due diligence.

(1) A motion for sanctions under this section shall be made separately from other motions or requests and shall describe the specific conduct alleged to violate subdivision (b). Notice of motion shall be served as provided in Section 1010, but shall not be filed with or presented to the court unless, within 21 days after service of the motion, or any other period as the court may prescribe, the challenged paper, claim, defense, contention, allegation, or denial is not withdrawn or appropriately corrected. If warranted, the court may award to the party prevailing on the motion the reasonable expenses and attorney's fees incurred in presenting or opposing the motion. Absent exceptional circumstances, a law firm shall be held jointly responsible for violations committed by its partners, associates, and employees.

(2) On its own motion, the court may enter an order describing the specific conduct that appears to violate subdivision (b) and directing an attorney, law firm, or party to show cause why it has not violated subdivision (b), unless, within 21 days of service of the order to show cause, the challenged paper, claim, defense, contention, allegation, or denial is withdrawn or appropriately corrected.

(d) A sanction imposed for violation of subdivision (b) shall be limited to what is sufficient to deter repetition of this conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. Subject to the limitations in paragraphs (1) and (2), the sanction may consist of, or include, directives of a nonmonetary nature, an order to pay a penalty into court, or, if imposed on motion and warranted for effective deterrence, an order directing payment to the movant of some or all of the reasonable attorney's fees and other expenses incurred as a direct result of the violation.

(1) Monetary sanctions may not be awarded against a represented party for a violation of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b).

(2) Monetary sanctions may not be awarded on the court's motion unless the court issues its order to show cause before a voluntary dismissal or settlement of the claims made by or against the party that is, or whose attorneys are, to be sanctioned.

(e) When imposing sanctions, the court shall describe the conduct determined to constitute a violation of this section and explain the basis for the sanction imposed.

(f) In addition to any award pursuant to this section for conduct described in subdivision (b), the court may assess punitive damages against the plaintiff upon a determination by the court that the plaintiff's action was an action maintained by a person convicted of a felony against the person's victim, or the victim's heirs, relatives, estate, or personal representative, for injuries arising from the acts for which the person was convicted of a felony, and that the plaintiff is guilty of fraud, oppression, or malice in maintaining the action.

(g) This section shall not apply to disclosures and discovery requests, responses, objections, and motions.

(h) A motion for sanctions brought by a party or a party's attorney primarily for an improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation, shall itself be subject to a motion for sanctions. It is the intent of the Legislature that courts shall vigorously use its sanctions authority to deter that improper conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated.

(i) This section shall apply to a complaint or petition filed on or after January 1, 1995, and any other pleading, written notice of motion, or other similar paper filed in that matter.

SEC. 10. Section 396b of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

396b. (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section 396a, if an action or proceeding is commenced in a court having jurisdiction of the subject

matter thereof, other than the court designated as the proper court for the trial thereof, under this title, the action may, notwithstanding, be tried in the court where commenced, unless the defendant, at the time he or she answers, demurs, or moves to strike, or, at his or her option, without answering, demurring, or moving to strike and within the time otherwise allowed to respond to the complaint, files with the clerk, a notice of motion for an order transferring the action or proceeding to the proper court, together with proof of service, upon the adverse party, of a copy of those papers. Upon the hearing of the motion the court shall, if it appears that the action or proceeding was not commenced in the proper court, order the action or proceeding transferred to the proper court.

(b) In its discretion, the court may order the payment to the prevailing party of reasonable expenses and attorney's fees incurred in making or resisting the motion to transfer whether or not that party is otherwise entitled to recover his or her costs of action. In determining whether that order for expenses and fees shall be made, the court shall take into consideration (1) whether an offer to stipulate to change of venue was reasonably made and rejected, and (2) whether the motion or selection of venue was made in good faith given the facts and law the party making the motion or selecting the venue knew or should have known. As between the party and his or her attorney, those expenses and fees shall be the personal liability of the attorney not chargeable to the party. Sanctions shall not be imposed pursuant to this subdivision except on notice contained in a party's papers, or on the court's own noticed motion, and after opportunity to be heard.

(c) The court in a proceeding for dissolution of marriage or legal separation or under the Uniform Parentage Act (Part 3 (commencing with Section 7600) of Division 12 of the Family Code) may, prior to the determination of the motion to transfer, consider and determine motions for allowance of temporary spousal support, support of children, and counsel fees and costs, and motions to determine custody of and visitation with children, and may make all necessary and proper orders in connection therewith.

(d) In any case, if an answer is filed, the court may consider opposition to the motion to transfer, if any, and may retain the action in the county where commenced if it appears that the convenience of the witnesses or the ends of justice will thereby be promoted.

(e) If the motion to transfer is denied, the court shall allow the defendant time to move to strike, demur, or otherwise plead if the defendant has not previously filed a response.

SEC. 11. Section 415.21 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

415.21. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person shall be granted access to a gated community for a reasonable period of time for the purpose of performing lawful service of process or service of a subpoena, upon identifying to the guard the person or persons to be

served, and upon displaying a current driver’s license or other identification, and one of the following:

(1) A badge or other confirmation that the individual is acting in his or her capacity as a representative of a county sheriff or marshal.

(2) Evidence of current registration as a process server pursuant to Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 22350) of Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code.

(b) This section shall only apply to a gated community that is staffed at the time service of process is attempted by a guard or other security personnel assigned to control access to the community.

SEC. 12. Section 425.115 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

425.115. (a) As used in this section:

(1) “Complaint” includes a cross-complaint.

(2) “Plaintiff” includes a cross-complainant.

(3) “Defendant” includes a cross-defendant.

(b) The plaintiff preserves the right to seek punitive damages pursuant to Section 3294 of the Civil Code on a default judgment by serving upon the defendant the following statement, or its substantial equivalent:

NOTICE TO _____:

(Insert name of defendant or cross-defendant)

_____ reserves the right to seek
(Insert name of plaintiff or cross-complainant)

\$ _____ in punitive damages
(Insert dollar amount)

when _____ seeks a judgment in the
(Insert name of plaintiff or
cross-complainant)

suit filed against you.

(Insert name of attorney or
party appearing in propria persona)

(Date)

(c) If the plaintiff seeks punitive damages pursuant to Section 3294 of the Civil Code, and if the defendant appears in the action, the plaintiff shall not be limited to the amount set forth in the statement served on the defendant pursuant to this section.

(d) A plaintiff who serves a statement on the defendant pursuant to this section shall be deemed to have complied with Sections 425.10 and 580 of this code and Section 3295 of the Civil Code.

(e) The plaintiff may serve a statement upon the defendant pursuant to this section, and may serve the statement as part of the statement required by Section 425.11.

(f) The plaintiff shall serve the statement upon the defendant pursuant to this section before a default may be taken, if the motion for default judgment includes a request for punitive damages.

(g) The statement referred to in subdivision (b) shall be served by one of the following methods:

(1) If the party has not appeared in the action, the statement shall be served in the same manner as a summons pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 415.10) of Chapter 4 of Title 5 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(2) If the party has appeared in the action, the statement shall be served upon his or her attorney, or upon the party if he or she has appeared without an attorney, either in the same manner as a summons pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 415.10) of Chapter 4 or in the manner provided by Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 1010) of Title 14.

SEC. 13. Section 998 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

998. (a) The costs allowed under Sections 1031 and 1032 shall be withheld or augmented as provided in this section.

(b) Not less than 10 days prior to commencement of trial or arbitration (as provided in Section 1281 or 1295) of a dispute to be resolved by arbitration, any party may serve an offer in writing upon any other party to the action to allow judgment to be taken or an award to be entered in accordance with the terms and conditions stated at that time. The written offer shall include a statement of the offer, containing the terms and conditions of the judgment or award, and a provision that allows the accepting party to indicate acceptance of the offer by signing a statement that the offer is accepted. Any acceptance of the offer, whether made on the document containing the offer or on a separate document of acceptance, shall be in writing and shall be signed by counsel for the accepting party or, if not represented by counsel, by the accepting party.

(1) If the offer is accepted, the offer with proof of acceptance shall be filed and the clerk and the judge shall enter judgment accordingly. In the case of an arbitration, the offer with proof of acceptance shall be filed with the arbitrator or arbitrators who shall promptly render an award accordingly.

(2) If the offer is not accepted prior to trial or arbitration or within 30 days after it is made, whichever occurs first, it shall be deemed withdrawn, and cannot be given in evidence upon the trial or arbitration.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a trial or arbitration shall be deemed to be actually commenced at the beginning of the opening statement of the plaintiff or counsel, and if there is no opening statement, then at the time of the administering of the oath or affirmation to the first witness, or the introduction of any evidence.

(c) (1) If an offer made by a defendant is not accepted and the plaintiff fails to obtain a more favorable judgment or award, the plaintiff shall not recover his or her postoffer costs and shall pay the defendant's costs from the time of the offer. In addition, in any action or proceeding other than an eminent domain action, the court or arbitrator, in its discretion, may require the plaintiff to pay a reasonable sum to cover costs of the services of expert witnesses, who are not regular employees of any party, actually

incurred and reasonably necessary in either, or both, preparation for trial or arbitration, or during trial or arbitration, of the case by the defendant.

(2) (A) In determining whether the plaintiff obtains a more favorable judgment, the court or arbitrator shall exclude the postoffer costs.

(B) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting subparagraph (A) to supersede the holding in *Encinitas Plaza Real v. Knight*, 209 Cal.App.3d 996, that attorney's fees awarded to the prevailing party were not costs for purposes of this section but were part of the judgment.

(d) If an offer made by a plaintiff is not accepted and the defendant fails to obtain a more favorable judgment or award in any action or proceeding other than an eminent domain action, the court or arbitrator, in its discretion, may require the defendant to pay a reasonable sum to cover postoffer costs of the services of expert witnesses, who are not regular employees of any party, actually incurred and reasonably necessary in either, or both, preparation for trial or arbitration, or during trial or arbitration, of the case by the plaintiff, in addition to plaintiff's costs.

(e) If an offer made by a defendant is not accepted and the plaintiff fails to obtain a more favorable judgment or award, the costs under this section, from the time of the offer, shall be deducted from any damages awarded in favor of the plaintiff. If the costs awarded under this section exceed the amount of the damages awarded to the plaintiff the net amount shall be awarded to the defendant and judgment or award shall be entered accordingly.

(f) Police officers shall be deemed to be expert witnesses for the purposes of this section. For purposes of this section, "plaintiff" includes a cross-complainant and "defendant" includes a cross-defendant. Any judgment or award entered pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be a compromise settlement.

(g) This chapter does not apply to either of the following:

(1) An offer that is made by a plaintiff in an eminent domain action.

(2) Any enforcement action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General, a district attorney, or a city attorney, acting as a public prosecutor.

(h) The costs for services of expert witnesses for trial under subdivisions (c) and (d) shall not exceed those specified in Section 68092.5 of the Government Code.

(i) This section shall not apply to labor arbitrations filed pursuant to memoranda of understanding under the Ralph C. Dills Act (Chapter 10.3 (commencing with Section 3512) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

SEC. 14. Section 1141.21 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

1141.21. (a) If the judgment upon the trial de novo is not more favorable in either the amount of damages awarded or the type of relief granted for the party electing the trial de novo than the arbitration award, the court shall order that party to pay the following nonrefundable costs and fees, unless the court finds in writing and upon motion that the

imposition of such costs and fees would create such a substantial economic hardship as not to be in the interest of justice:

(i) To the court, the compensation actually paid to the arbitrator, less any amount paid pursuant to paragraph (iv).

(ii) To the other party or parties, all costs specified in Section 1033.5, and the party electing the trial de novo shall not recover his or her costs.

(iii) To the other party or parties, the reasonable costs of the services of expert witnesses, who are not regular employees of any party, actually incurred or reasonably necessary in the preparation or trial of the case.

(iv) To the other party or parties, the compensation paid by the other party or parties to the arbitrator, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1141.28.

Such costs and fees, other than the compensation of the arbitrator, shall include only those incurred from the time of election of the trial de novo.

(b) If the party electing the trial de novo has proceeded in the action in forma pauperis and has failed to obtain a more favorable judgment, the costs and fees under paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of subdivision (a) shall be imposed only as an offset against any damages awarded in favor of that party.

(c) If the party electing the trial de novo has proceeded in the action in forma pauperis and has failed to obtain a more favorable judgment, the costs under paragraph (i) of subdivision (a) shall be imposed only to the extent that there remains a sufficient amount in the judgment after the amount offset under subdivision (b) has been deducted from the judgment.

SEC. 15. Section 1540 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

1540. (a) Any person, excluding another state, who claims an interest in property paid or delivered to the Controller under this chapter may file a claim to the property or to the net proceeds from its sale. The claim shall be on a form prescribed by the Controller and shall be verified by the claimant.

(b) The Controller shall consider each claim within 180 days after it is filed and may hold a hearing and receive evidence. The Controller shall give written notice to the claimant if he or she denies the claim in whole or in part. The notice may be given by mailing it to the address, if any, stated in the claim as the address to which notices are to be sent. If no address is stated in the claim, the notice may be mailed to the address, if any, of the claimant as stated in the claim. No notice of denial need be given if the claim fails to state either an address to which notices are to be sent or an address of the claimant.

(c) No interest shall be payable on any claim paid under this chapter.

(d) For the purposes of this section, “owner” means the person who had legal right to the property prior to its escheat, his or her heirs, his or her legal representative, or a public administrator acting pursuant to the authority granted in Sections 7660 and 7661 of the Probate Code.

(e) Following a public hearing, the Controller shall adopt guidelines and forms that shall provide specific instructions to assist owners in filing claims pursuant to this article.

SEC. 16. Section 811.9 of the Government Code is amended to read:

811.9. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judges, subordinate judicial officers, and court executive officers of the superior courts are state officers for purposes of Part 1 (commencing with Section 810) to Part 7 (commencing with Section 995), inclusive, and trial court employees are employees of the trial court for purposes of Part 1 (commencing with Section 810) to Part 7 (commencing with Section 995), inclusive. The Judicial Council shall provide for representation, defense, and indemnification of those individuals and the court pursuant to Part 1 (commencing with Section 810) to Part 7 (commencing with Section 995), inclusive. The Judicial Council shall provide for that representation or defense through the county counsel, the Attorney General, or other counsel. The county counsel and the Attorney General may, but are not required to, provide representation or defense for the Judicial Council. The fact that a justice, judge, subordinate judicial officer, court executive officer, court employee, the court, the Judicial Council, or the Administrative Office of the Courts is or was represented or defended by the county counsel, the Attorney General, or other counsel shall not be the sole basis for a judicial determination of disqualification of a justice, judge, subordinate judicial officer, the county counsel, the Attorney General, or other counsel in unrelated actions.

(b) To promote the cost-effective, prompt, and fair resolution of actions, proceedings, and claims affecting the trial courts, the Judicial Council shall adopt rules of court requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to manage actions, proceedings, and claims that affect the trial courts and involve superior courts, superior court judges, subordinate judicial officers, court executive officers, or trial court employees in consultation with the affected courts and individuals. The Administrative Office of the Courts' management of these actions, proceedings, and claims shall include, but not be limited to, case management and administrative responsibilities such as selection of counsel and making strategic and settlement decisions.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the employment status of subordinate judicial officers, court executive officers, and trial court employees related to any matters not covered by subdivision (a).

SEC. 17. Section 905 of the Government Code is amended to read:

905. There shall be presented in accordance with Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 900) and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 910) of this part all claims for money or damages against local public entities except:

(a) Claims under the Revenue and Taxation Code or other statute prescribing procedures for the refund, rebate, exemption, cancellation, amendment, modification or adjustment of any tax, assessment, fee or

charge or any portion thereof, or of any penalties, costs or charges related thereto.

(b) Claims in connection with which the filing of a notice of lien, statement of claim, or stop notice is required under any provision of law relating to mechanics', laborers' or materialmen's liens.

(c) Claims by public employees for fees, salaries, wages, mileage or other expenses and allowances.

(d) Claims for which the workers' compensation authorized by Division 4 (commencing with Section 3200) of the Labor Code is the exclusive remedy.

(e) Applications or claims for any form of public assistance under the Welfare and Institutions Code or other provisions of law relating to public assistance programs, and claims for goods, services, provisions or other assistance rendered for or on behalf of any recipient of any form of public assistance.

(f) Applications or claims for money or benefits under any public retirement or pension system.

(g) Claims for principal or interest upon any bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness.

(h) Claims that relate to a special assessment constituting a specific lien against the property assessed and that are payable from the proceeds of the assessment, by offset of a claim for damages against it or by delivery of any warrant or bonds representing it.

(i) Claims by the state or by a state department or agency or by another local public entity or by a judicial branch entity.

(j) Claims arising under any provision of the Unemployment Insurance Code, including but not limited to claims for money or benefits, or for refunds or credits of employer or worker contributions, penalties, or interest, or for refunds to workers of deductions from wages in excess of the amount prescribed.

(k) Claims for the recovery of penalties or forfeitures made pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 1720) of Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 2 of the Labor Code.

(l) Claims governed by the Pedestrian Mall Law of 1960, Part 1 (commencing with Section 11000) of Division 13 of the Streets and Highways Code.

SEC. 18. Section 905.7 is added to the Government Code, to read:

905.7. All claims against a judicial branch entity for money or damages based upon an express contract or for an injury for which the judicial branch entity is liable shall be presented in accordance with Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 900) and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 910) of this part.

SEC. 19. Section 910.4 of the Government Code is amended to read:

910.4. The board shall provide forms specifying the information to be contained in claims against the state or a judicial branch entity. The person presenting a claim shall use the form in order that his or her claim is deemed in conformity with Sections 910 and 910.2. A claim may be

returned to the person if it was not presented using the form. Any claim returned to a person may be resubmitted using the appropriate form.

SEC. 20. Section 11135 of the Government Code is amended to read:

11135. (a) No person in the State of California shall, on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, color, or disability, be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency, is funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state. Notwithstanding Section 11000, this section applies to the California State University.

(b) With respect to discrimination on the basis of disability, programs and activities subject to subdivision (a) shall meet the protections and prohibitions contained in Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof, except that if the laws of this state prescribe stronger protections and prohibitions, the programs and activities subject to subdivision (a) shall be subject to the stronger protections and prohibitions.

(c) (1) As used in this section, “disability” means any mental or physical disability as defined in Section 12926.

(2) The Legislature finds and declares that the amendments made to this act are declarative of existing law. The Legislature further finds and declares that in enacting Senate Bill 105 of the 2001–02 Regular Session (Chapter 1102 of the Statutes of 2002), it was the intention of the Legislature to apply subdivision (d) to the California State University in the same manner that subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) of this section already applied to the California State University, notwithstanding Section 11000. In clarifying that the California State University is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d), it is not the intention of the Legislature to increase the cost of developing or procuring electronic and information technology. The California State University shall, however, in determining the cost of developing or procuring electronic or information technology, consider whether technology that meets the standards applicable pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) will reduce the long-term cost incurred by the California State University in providing access or accommodations to future users of this technology who are persons with disabilities, as required by existing law, including this section, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 and following), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794).

(d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that the ability to utilize electronic or information technology is often an essential function for successful employment in the current work world.

(2) In order to improve accessibility of existing technology, and therefore increase the successful employment of individuals with disabilities, particularly blind and visually impaired and deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, state governmental entities, in developing,

procuring, maintaining, or using electronic or information technology, either indirectly or through the use of state funds by other entities, shall comply with the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794d), and regulations implementing that act as set forth in Part 1194 of Title 36 of the Federal Code of Regulations.

(3) Any entity that contracts with a state or local entity subject to this section for the provision of electronic or information technology or for the provision of related services shall agree to respond to, and resolve any complaint regarding accessibility of its products or services that is brought to the attention of the entity.

SEC. 21. Section 68085 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 101 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

68085. (a) (1) There is hereby established the Trial Court Trust Fund, the proceeds of which shall be apportioned at least quarterly for the purpose of funding trial court operations, as defined in Section 77003. Apportionment payments may not exceed 30 percent of the total annual apportionment to the Trial Court Trust Fund for state trial court funding in any 90-day period.

(2) The apportionment payments shall be made by the Controller. The final payment from the Trial Court Trust Fund for each fiscal year shall be made on or before August 31 of the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) If apportionment payments are made on a quarterly basis, the payments shall be on July 15, October 15, January 15, and April 15. In addition to quarterly payments, a final payment from the Trial Court Trust Fund for each fiscal year may be made on or before August 31 of the subsequent fiscal year.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in order to promote statewide efficiency, the Judicial Council may authorize the direct payment or reimbursement or both of actual costs from the Trial Court Trust Fund or the Trial Court Improvement Fund to fund administrative infrastructure within the Administrative Office of the Courts, such as legal services, financial services, information systems services, human resource services, and support services, for one or more participating courts upon appropriation of funding for these purposes in the annual Budget Act. The amount of appropriations from the Trial Court Improvement Fund under this subdivision may not exceed 20 percent of the amount deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 77205. Upon prior written approval of the Director of Finance, the Judicial Council may also authorize an increase in any reimbursements or direct payments in excess of the amount appropriated in the annual Budget Act. For any increases in reimbursements or direct payments within the fiscal year that exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), the Director of Finance shall provide notification in writing of any approval granted under this section, not less than 30 days prior to the effective date of that approval, to the chairperson of the committee in each house of the Legislature that considers appropriations, the chairpersons of the

committees and the appropriate subcommittees in each house of the Legislature that consider the annual Budget Act, and the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, or not sooner than whatever lesser time the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, or his or her designee, may in each instance, determine. The direct payment or reimbursement of costs from the Trial Court Trust Fund may be supported by the reduction of a participating court's allocation from the Trial Court Trust Fund to the extent that the court's expenditures for the program are reduced and the court is supported by the program. The Judicial Council shall provide the affected trial courts with quarterly reports on expenditures from the Trial Court Trust Fund incurred as authorized by this subdivision. The Judicial Council shall establish procedures to provide for the administration of this paragraph in a way that promotes the effective, efficient, reliable, and accountable operation of the trial courts.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the fees listed in subdivision (c) shall all be deposited upon collection in a special account in the county treasury, and transmitted monthly to the Controller for deposit in the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(c) (1) Except as specified in subdivision (d), this section applies to all fees collected on or before December 31, 2005, pursuant to Sections 631.3, 116.230, and 403.060 of the Code of Civil Procedure and Sections 26820.4, 26823, 26826, 26826.01, 26827, 26827.4, 26830, 26832.1, 26833.1, 26835.1, 26836.1, 26837.1, 26838, 26850.1, 26851.1, 26852.1, 26853.1, 26855.4, 26862, 68086, 72055, 72056, 72056.01, and 72060.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as specified in subdivision (d) of this section and subdivision (a) of Section 68085.7, this section applies to all fees and fines collected on or before December 31, 2005, pursuant to Sections 116.390, 116.570, 116.760, 116.860, 177.5, 491.150, 704.750, 708.160, 724.100, 1134, 1161.2, and 1218 of the Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 26824, 26828, 26829, 26834, and 72059 of the Government Code, and subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 166 and Section 1214.1 of the Penal Code.

(3) If any of the fees provided for in this subdivision are partially waived by court order, and the fee is to be divided between the Trial Court Trust Fund and any other fund, the amount of the partial waiver shall be deducted from the amount to be distributed to each fund in the same proportion as the amount of each distribution bears to the total amount of the fee.

(d) This section does not apply to that portion of a filing fee collected pursuant to Section 26820.4, 26826, 26827, 72055, or 72056 that is allocated for dispute resolution pursuant to Section 470.3 of the Business and Professions Code, the county law library pursuant to Section 6320 of the Business and Professions Code, the Judges' Retirement Fund pursuant to Section 26822.3, automated recordkeeping or conversion to micrographics pursuant to Sections 26863 and 68090.7, and courthouse

financing pursuant to Section 76238. This section also does not apply to fees collected pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (c) of Section 27361.

(e) This section applies to all payments required to be made to the State Treasury by any county or city and county pursuant to Section 77201, 77201.1, or 77205.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agency may take action to change the amounts allocated to any of the funds described in subdivision (a), (b), (c), or (d).

(g) The Judicial Council shall reimburse the Controller for the actual administrative costs that will be incurred under this section. Costs reimbursed under this section shall be determined on an annual basis in consultation with the Judicial Council.

(h) Any amounts required to be transmitted by a county or city and county to the state pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the Controller no later than 45 days after the end of the month in which the fees were collected. This remittance shall be accompanied by a remittance advice identifying the collection month and the appropriate account in the Trial Court Trust Fund to which it is to be deposited. Any remittance that is not made by the county or city and county in accordance with this section shall be considered delinquent, and subject to the penalties specified in this section.

(i) Upon receipt of any delinquent payment required pursuant to this section, the Controller shall calculate a penalty on any delinquent payment by multiplying the amount of the delinquent payment at a daily rate equivalent to 1 ½ percent per month for the number of days the payment is delinquent. Notwithstanding Section 77009, any penalty on a delinquent payment that a court is required to reimburse to a county's general fund pursuant to this section and Section 24353 shall be paid from the Trial Court Operations Fund for that court.

(j) Penalty amounts calculated pursuant to subdivision (i) shall be paid by the county to the Trial Court Trust Fund no later than 45 days after the end of the month in which the penalty was calculated.

(k) The Trial Court Trust Fund shall be invested in the Surplus Money Investment Fund and all interest earned shall be allocated to the Trial Court Trust Fund quarterly and shall be allocated among the courts in accordance with the requirements of subdivision (a). The specific allocations shall be specified by the Judicial Council.

(l) It is the intent of the Legislature that the revenues required to be deposited into the Trial Court Trust Fund be remitted as soon after collection by the courts as possible.

(m) Except for subdivisions (a) and (k), this section does not apply to fees and fines that are listed in subdivision (a) of Section 68085.1 that are collected on or after January 1, 2006.

SEC. 22. Section 68085.1 of the Government Code is amended to read:

68085.1. (a) This section applies to all fees and fines that are collected on or after January 1, 2006, under all of the following:

(1) Sections 177.5, 209, 403.060, 491.150, 631.3, 683.150, 704.750, 708.160, 724.100, 1134, 1161.2, and 1218 of, subdivision (g) of Section 411.20 and subdivisions (c) and (g) of Section 411.21 of, and Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 116.110) of Title 1 of Part 1 of, the Code of Civil Procedure.

(2) Section 31622 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

(3) Sections 68086 and 68086.1, subdivision (d) of Section 68511.3, Sections 68926.1 and 69953.5, and Chapter 5.8 (commencing with Section 70600).

(4) Section 103470 of the Health and Safety Code.

(5) Subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 166 and Section 1214.1 of the Penal Code.

(6) Sections 1835, 1851.5, 2343, 7660, and 13201 of the Probate Code.

(7) Sections 14607.6, 16373, and 40230 of the Vehicle Code.

(8) Section 71386 of this code and Section 1513.1 of the Probate Code, if the reimbursement is for expenses incurred by the court.

(b) On and after January 1, 2006, each superior court shall deposit all fees and fines listed in subdivision (a), as soon as practicable after collection and on a regular basis, into a bank account established for this purpose by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Upon direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the county shall deposit civil assessments under Section 1214.1 of the Penal Code and any other money it collects under the sections listed in subdivision (a) as soon as practicable after collection and on a regular basis into the bank account established for this purpose and specified by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The deposits shall be made as required by rules adopted by, and financial policies and procedures authorized by, the Judicial Council under subdivision (a) of Section 77206. Within 15 days after the end of the month in which the fees and fines are collected, each court, and each county that collects any fines or fees under subdivision (a), shall provide the Administrative Office of the Courts with a report of the fees by categories as specified by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The fees and fines listed in subdivision (a) shall be distributed as provided in this section.

(c) (1) Within 45 calendar days after the end of the month in which the fees and fines listed in subdivision (a) are collected, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall make the following distributions:

(A) To the small claims advisory services, as described in subdivision (f) of Section 116.230 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(B) To dispute resolution programs, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 68085.3 and subdivision (b) of Section 68085.4.

(C) To the county law library funds, as described in Section 116.760 of the Code of Civil Procedure, subdivision (b) of Section 68085.3, subdivision (b) of Section 68085.4, and Section 70621 of this code, and Section 14607.6 of the Vehicle Code.

(D) To the courthouse construction funds in the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Francisco, as described in Sections 70622, 70624, and 70625.

(2) If any distribution under this subdivision is delinquent, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall add a penalty to the distribution as specified in subdivision (i).

(d) Within 45 calendar days after the end of the month in which the fees and fines listed in subdivision (a) are collected, the amounts remaining after the distributions in subdivision (c) shall be transmitted to the State Treasury for deposit in the Trial Court Trust Fund and other funds as required by law. This remittance shall be accompanied by a remittance advice identifying the collection month and the appropriate account in the Trial Court Trust Fund or other fund to which it is to be deposited. Upon the receipt of any delinquent payment required under this subdivision, the Controller shall calculate a penalty as provided under subdivision (i).

(e) From the money transmitted to the State Treasury under subdivision (d), the Controller shall make deposits as follows:

(1) Into the State Court Facilities Construction Fund, the Judges' Retirement Fund, and the Equal Access Fund, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 68085.3 and subdivision (c) of Section 68085.4.

(2) Into the Health Statistics Special Fund, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 70670 of this code and Section 103730 of the Health and Safety Code.

(3) Into the Family Law Trust Fund, as described in Section 70674.

(4) The remainder of the money shall be deposited into the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(f) The amounts collected by each superior court under Section 116.232, subdivision (g) of Section 411.20, and subdivision (g) of Section 411.21 of the Code of Civil Procedure, subdivision (d) of Section 68511.3 and Sections 68926.1, 69953.5, 70627, 70631, 70640, 70661, 70678, and 71386 of this code, and Sections 1513.1, 1835, 1851.5, and 2343 of the Probate Code, shall be added to the monthly apportionment for that court under subdivision (a) of Section 68085.

(g) If any of the fees provided in subdivision (a) are partially waived by court order or otherwise reduced, and the fee is to be divided between the Trial Court Trust Fund and any other fund or account, the amount of the reduction shall be deducted from the amount to be distributed to each fund in the same proportion as the amount of each distribution bears to the total amount of the fee. If the fee is paid by installment payments, the amount distributed to each fund or account from each installment shall bear the same proportion to the installment payment as the full distribution to that fund or account does to the full fee.

(h) Except as provided in Sections 470.5 and 6322.1 of the Business and Professions Code, and Sections 70622, 70624, and 70625 of this code, no agency may take action to change the amounts allocated to any of the funds described in subdivision (c), (d), or (e).

(i) The amount of the penalty on any delinquent payment under subdivision (c) or (d) shall be calculated by multiplying the amount of the delinquent payment at a daily rate equivalent to 1 ½ percent per month for the number of days the payment is delinquent. The penalty shall be paid from the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(j) If a delinquent payment under subdivision (c) or (d) results from a delinquency by a superior court under subdivision (b), the court shall reimburse the Trial Court Trust Fund for the amount of the penalty. Notwithstanding Section 77009, any penalty on a delinquent payment that a court is required to reimburse pursuant to this section shall be paid from the court operations fund for that court. The penalty shall be paid by the court to the Trial Court Trust Fund no later than 45 days after the end of the month in which the penalty was calculated. If the penalty is not paid within the specified time, the Administrative Office of the Courts may reduce the amount of a subsequent monthly allocation to the court by the amount of the penalty on the delinquent payment.

SEC. 23. Section 68085.1 of the Government Code is amended to read:

68085.1. (a) This section applies to all fees and fines that are collected on or after January 1, 2006, under all of the following:

(1) Sections 177.5, 209, 403.060, 491.150, 631.3, 683.150, 704.750, 708.160, 724.100, 1134, 1161.2, and 1218 of, subdivision (g) of Section 411.20 and subdivisions (c) and (g) of Section 411.21 of, and Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 116.110) of Title 1 of Part 1 of, the Code of Civil Procedure.

(2) Section 31622 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

(3) Sections 68086 and 68086.1, subdivision (d) of Section 68511.3, Sections 68926.1 and 69953.5, and Chapter 5.8 (commencing with Section 70600).

(4) Section 103470 of the Health and Safety Code.

(5) Subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 166 and Section 1214.1 of the Penal Code.

(6) Sections 1835, 1851.5, 2343, 7660, and 13201 of the Probate Code.

(7) Sections 14607.6, 16373, and 40230 of the Vehicle Code.

(8) Section 71386 of this code and Section 1513.1 of the Probate Code, if the reimbursement is for expenses incurred by the court.

(b) On and after January 1, 2006, each superior court shall deposit all fees and fines listed in subdivision (a), as soon as practicable after collection and on a regular basis, into a bank account established for this purpose by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Upon direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the county shall deposit civil assessments under Section 1214.1 of the Penal Code and any other money it collects under the sections listed in subdivision (a) as soon as practicable after collection and on a regular basis into the bank account established for this purpose and specified by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The deposits shall be made as required by rules adopted by, and financial policies and procedures authorized by, the Judicial Council under subdivision (a) of Section 77206. Within 15 days after the end of the

month in which the fees and fines are collected, each court, and each county that collects any fines or fees under subdivision (a), shall provide the Administrative Office of the Courts with a report of the fees by categories as specified by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The fees and fines listed in subdivision (a) shall be distributed as provided in this section.

(c) (1) Within 45 calendar days after the end of the month in which the fees and fines listed in subdivision (a) are collected, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall make the following distributions:

(A) To the small claims advisory services, as described in subdivision (f) of Section 116.230 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(B) To dispute resolution programs, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 68085.3 and subdivision (b) of Section 68085.4.

(C) To the county law library funds, as described in Sections 116.230 and 116.760 of the Code of Civil Procedure, subdivision (b) of Section 68085.3, subdivision (b) of Section 68085.4, and Section 70621 of this code, and Section 14607.6 of the Vehicle Code.

(D) To the courthouse construction funds in the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Francisco, as described in Sections 70622, 70624, and 70625.

(2) If any distribution under this subdivision is delinquent, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall add a penalty to the distribution as specified in subdivision (i).

(d) Within 45 calendar days after the end of the month in which the fees and fines listed in subdivision (a) are collected, the amounts remaining after the distributions in subdivision (c) shall be transmitted to the State Treasury for deposit in the Trial Court Trust Fund and other funds as required by law. This remittance shall be accompanied by a remittance advice identifying the collection month and the appropriate account in the Trial Court Trust Fund or other fund to which it is to be deposited. Upon the receipt of any delinquent payment required under this subdivision, the Controller shall calculate a penalty as provided under subdivision (i).

(e) From the money transmitted to the State Treasury under subdivision (d), the Controller shall make deposits as follows:

(1) Into the State Court Facilities Construction Fund, the Judges' Retirement Fund, and the Equal Access Fund, as described in subdivision (c) of Section 68085.3 and subdivision (c) of Section 68085.4.

(2) Into the Health Statistics Special Fund, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 70670 of this code and Section 103730 of the Health and Safety Code.

(3) Into the Family Law Trust Fund, as described in Section 70674.

(4) The remainder of the money shall be deposited into the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(f) The amounts collected by each superior court under Section 116.232, subdivision (g) of Section 411.20, and subdivision (g) of Section 411.21 of the Code of Civil Procedure, subdivision (d) of Section 68511.3 and Sections 68926.1, 69953.5, 70627, 70631, 70640, 70661, 70678, and

71386 of this code, and Sections 1513.1, 1835, 1851.5, and 2343 of the Probate Code, shall be added to the monthly apportionment for that court under subdivision (a) of Section 68085.

(g) If any of the fees provided in subdivision (a) are partially waived by court order or otherwise reduced, and the fee is to be divided between the Trial Court Trust Fund and any other fund or account, the amount of the reduction shall be deducted from the amount to be distributed to each fund in the same proportion as the amount of each distribution bears to the total amount of the fee. If the fee is paid by installment payments, the amount distributed to each fund or account from each installment shall bear the same proportion to the installment payment as the full distribution to that fund or account does to the full fee.

(h) Except as provided in Sections 470.5 and 6322.1 of the Business and Professions Code, and Sections 70622, 70624, and 70625 of this code, no agency may take action to change the amounts allocated to any of the funds described in subdivision (c), (d), or (e).

(i) The amount of the penalty on any delinquent payment under subdivision (c) or (d) shall be calculated by multiplying the amount of the delinquent payment at a daily rate equivalent to 1 ½ percent per month for the number of days the payment is delinquent. The penalty shall be paid from the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(j) If a delinquent payment under subdivision (c) or (d) results from a delinquency by a superior court under subdivision (b), the court shall reimburse the Trial Court Trust Fund for the amount of the penalty. Notwithstanding Section 77009, any penalty on a delinquent payment that a court is required to reimburse pursuant to this section shall be paid from the court operations fund for that court. The penalty shall be paid by the court to the Trial Court Trust Fund no later than 45 days after the end of the month in which the penalty was calculated. If the penalty is not paid within the specified time, the Administrative Office of the Courts may reduce the amount of a subsequent monthly allocation to the court by the amount of the penalty on the delinquent payment.

SEC. 24. Section 68085.4 of the Government Code is amended to read:

68085.4. (a) Fees collected under Sections 70613, 70614, 70654, 70656, and 70658 of this code, Section 103470 of the Health and Safety Code, and Section 7660 of the Probate Code, shall be deposited in a bank account established by the Administrative Office of the Courts for deposit of fees collected by the courts.

(b) For each three hundred-dollar (\$300) fee and each one hundred eighty-dollar (\$180) fee listed in subdivision (a), the Administrative Office of the Courts shall distribute specified amounts in each county as follows:

(1) To the county law library fund, the amount described in Sections 6321 and 6322.1 of the Business and Professions Code.

(2) To the account to support dispute resolution programs, the amount described in Section 470.5 of the Business and Professions Code.

(c) The remainder of the fees in subdivision (a) shall be transmitted monthly to the Treasurer for deposit. For each three hundred-dollar (\$300)

fee and each one hundred eighty-dollar (\$180) fee listed in subdivision (a), the Controller shall make deposits as follows:

(1) To the State Court Facilities Construction Fund, as provided in Article 6 (commencing with Section 70371) of Chapter 5.7, twenty-five dollars (\$25) if the fee is three hundred dollars (\$300), and twenty dollars (\$20) if the fee is one hundred eighty dollars (\$180).

(2) To the Judges' Retirement Fund, as established in Section 75100, two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50).

(3) To the Trial Court Trust Fund for use as part of the Equal Access Fund program administered by the Judicial Council, four dollars and eighty cents (\$4.80).

(4) To the Trial Court Trust Fund, as provided in Section 68085.1, the remainder of the fee.

(d) If any of the fees listed in subdivision (a) are reduced or partially waived, the amount of the reduction or partial waiver shall be deducted from the amount to be distributed to each fund or account in the same proportion as the amount of each distribution bears to the total amount of the fee.

(e) As used in this section, "law library fund" includes a law library account described in Section 6320 of the Business and Professions Code.

SEC. 25. Section 68085.9 is added to the Government Code, to read:

68085.9. Notwithstanding any other provision of law requiring a trial court or officer of a trial court to deposit money received by the court or officer into the county treasury or with the county treasurer, including, but not limited to, Sections 24353, 68085, 68085.5, and 68101 of this code and Section 1463.001 of the Penal Code, the court or officer, with the consent of the county and the Administrative Director of the Courts, may deposit all money required to be deposited into the county treasury or with the county treasurer into a bank account established by the Administrative Office of the Courts separate from the county treasury. Money collected pursuant to Section 68085.1 shall be deposited as provided in that section. The Judicial Council, with the consent of the county, may require the court and officer to deposit money into a bank account established by the Administrative Office of the Courts separate from the county treasury.

SEC. 26. Section 68086 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 106 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

68086. (a) The following provisions apply in superior court:

(1) In addition to any other fee required in civil actions or cases, for each proceeding lasting more than one hour, a fee equal to the actual cost of providing that service shall be charged per one-half day of services to the parties, on a pro rata basis, for the services of an official court reporter on the first and each succeeding judicial day those services are provided pursuant to Section 269 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(2) All parties shall deposit their pro rata shares of these fees with the clerk of the court as specified by the court, but not later than the conclusion of each day's court session.

(3) For purposes of this section, “one-half day” means any period of judicial time, in excess of one hour but not more than four hours, during either the morning or afternoon court session.

(4) The costs for the services of the official court reporter shall be recoverable as taxable costs by the prevailing party as otherwise provided by law.

(5) The Judicial Council shall adopt rules to ensure all of the following:

(A) That parties are given adequate and timely notice of the availability of an official court reporter.

(B) That if an official court reporter is not available, a party may arrange for the presence of a certified shorthand reporter to serve as an official pro tempore reporter, the costs therefore recoverable as provided in paragraph (4).

(C) That if the services of an official pro tempore reporter are utilized pursuant to subparagraph (B), no other charge will be made to the parties.

(b) The fees collected pursuant to this section shall be used only to pay the cost for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings.

(c) The Judicial Council shall report on or before February 1 of each year to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the fees collected by courts pursuant to this section and Section 68086.1, and the total amount spent for services of official court reporters in civil proceedings statewide in the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 27. Section 68086.1 of the Government Code is amended to read:

68086.1. (a) Commencing January 1, 2006, for each three hundred twenty-dollar (\$320) fee collected under Section 70611, 70612, or 70670, twenty-five dollars (\$25) of the amount distributed to the Trial Court Trust Fund shall be used for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings.

(b) Commencing January 1, 2006, for each three hundred-dollar (\$300) fee collected under subdivision (a) of Section 70613 or subdivision (a) of Section 70614, twenty-five dollars (\$25) of the amount distributed to the Trial Court Trust Fund shall be used for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature, in approving the twenty-five-dollar (\$25) distribution out of each filing fee listed in subdivisions (a) and (b), to continue an incentive to courts to use the services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings. However, nothing in this section shall affect the Judicial Council’s authority to allocate these revenues to replace reductions in the General Fund appropriation to the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(d) The portion of the distribution to the Trial Court Trust Fund to be used for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be used only in trial courts that utilize the services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings.

SEC. 28. Section 68090.8 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 111 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

68090.8. (a) (1) The Legislature finds that the management of civil and criminal cases, including traffic cases, and the accounting for funds in the trial courts requires these courts to implement appropriate levels of administrative automation.

(2) The purpose of this section is to make a fund available for the development of automated administrative systems, including automated accounting, automated data collection through case management systems, and automated case-processing systems for the trial courts, together with funds to train operating personnel, and for the maintenance and enhancement of the systems. As used in this paragraph, “automated administrative systems” does not include electronic reporting systems for use in a courtroom.

(3) Automated data collection shall provide the foundation for planning, research, and evaluation programs that are generated from within and outside of the judicial branch. This system shall be a resource to the courts, the Judicial Council and its committees, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Legislature, the Governor, and the public. During the developmental stage and prior to the implementation of the system, the Legislature shall make recommendations to the Judicial Council as to the breadth and level of detail of the data to be collected.

(b) Prior to making any other required distribution, the county treasurer shall transmit 2 percent of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures collected in criminal cases, including, but not limited to, moneys collected pursuant to Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 76000) of Title 8 of this code, Section 13003 of the Fish and Game Code, Section 11502 of the Health and Safety Code, and Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1427) of Title 11 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, into the Trial Court Improvement Fund established pursuant to Section 77209, to be used exclusively to pay the costs of automated systems for the trial courts, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a). These systems shall meet Judicial Council performance standards, including production of reports as needed by the state, the counties, and local governmental entities.

SEC. 29. Section 68511.3 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 113 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

68511.3. (a) The Judicial Council shall formulate and adopt uniform forms and rules of court for litigants proceeding in forma pauperis. These rules shall provide for all of the following:

(1) Standard procedures for considering and determining applications for permission to proceed in forma pauperis, including, in the event of a denial of permission, a written statement detailing the reasons for denial and an evidentiary hearing where there is a substantial evidentiary conflict.

(2) Standard procedures to toll relevant time limitations when a pleading or other paper accompanied by the application is timely lodged with the court and delay is caused due to the processing of the application to proceed in forma pauperis.

(3) Proceeding in forma pauperis at every stage of the proceedings at both the appellate and trial levels of the court system.

(4) The confidentiality of the financial information provided to the court by these litigants.

(5) That the court may authorize the clerk of the court, county financial officer, or other appropriate county officer to make reasonable efforts to verify the litigant's financial condition without compromising the confidentiality of the application.

(6) That permission to proceed in forma pauperis be granted to all of the following:

(A) Litigants who are receiving benefits pursuant to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplemental Payments (SSP) programs (Sections 12200 to 12205, inclusive, of the Welfare and Institutions Code), the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act (CalWORKs) program (Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code), the Food Stamp Program (7 U.S.C. Sec. 2011 et seq.), or Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(B) Litigants whose monthly income is 125 percent or less of the current monthly poverty line annually established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, as amended.

(C) Other persons when in the court's discretion, this permission is appropriate because the litigant is unable to proceed without using money which is necessary for the use of the litigant or the litigant's family to provide for the common necessities of life.

(b) (1) Litigants who apply for permission to proceed in forma pauperis pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) shall declare under penalty of perjury that they are receiving the benefits and may voluntarily provide the court with their date of birth and social security number or their Medi-Cal identification number to permit the court to verify the applicant's receipt of public assistance. The court may require any applicant, except a defendant in an unlawful detainer action, who chooses not to disclose his or her social security number for verification purposes to attach to the application documentation of benefits to support the claim and all other financial information on a form promulgated by the Judicial Council for this purpose.

(2) Litigants who apply for permission to proceed in forma pauperis pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) shall file a financial statement under oath on a form promulgated by, and pursuant to rules adopted by, the Judicial Council.

(c) The forms and rules adopted by the Judicial Council shall provide for the disclosure of the following information about the litigant:

- (1) Current street address.
- (2) Occupation and employer.
- (3) Monthly income and expenses.
- (4) Address and value of any real property owned directly or beneficially.

(5) Personal property with a value that exceeds five hundred dollars (\$500).

The information furnished by the litigant shall be used by the court in determining his or her ability to pay all or a portion of the fees and costs.

(d) At any time after the court has granted a litigant permission to proceed in forma pauperis and prior to final disposition of the case, the clerk of the court, county financial officer, or other appropriate county officer may notify the court of any changed financial circumstances which may enable the litigant to pay all or a portion of the fees and costs which had been waived. The court may authorize the clerk of the court, county financial officer, or other appropriate county officer to require the litigant to appear before and be examined by the person authorized to ascertain the validity of their indigent status. However, no litigant shall be required to appear more than once in any four-month period. A litigant proceeding in forma pauperis shall notify the court within five days of any settlement or monetary consideration received in settlement of this litigation and of any other change in financial circumstances that affects the litigant's ability to pay court fees and costs. After the litigant either (1) appears before and is examined by the person authorized to ascertain the validity of his or her indigent status or (2) notifies the court of a change in financial circumstances, the court may then order the litigant to pay to the court the sum and in any manner the court believes is compatible with the litigant's financial ability.

In any action or proceeding in which the litigant whose fees and costs have been waived would have been entitled to recover those fees and costs from another party to the action or proceeding had they been paid, the court may assess the amount of the waived fees and costs against the other party and order the other party to pay that sum to the court or to the clerk and serving and levying officers respectively, or the court may order the amount of the waived fees and costs added to the judgment and so identified by the clerk.

Execution may be issued on any order provided for in this subdivision in the same manner as on a judgment in a civil action. When an amount equal to the sum due and payable to the clerk has been collected upon the judgment, these amounts shall be remitted to the clerk within 30 days. Thereafter, when an amount equal to the sum due to the serving and levying officers has been collected upon the judgment, these amounts shall be due and payable to those officers and shall be remitted within 30 days. If the remittance is not received by the clerk within 30 days or there is a filing of a partial satisfaction of judgment in an amount at least equal to the fees and costs payable to the clerk or a satisfaction of judgment has been filed, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court may issue an abstract of judgment, writ of execution, or both for recovery of those sums, plus the fees for issuance and execution and an additional fee for administering this section. The court shall establish a fee, not to exceed actual costs of administering this subdivision and in no case exceeding twenty-five dollars (\$25), which shall be added to the writ of execution.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a person who is sentenced to imprisonment in a state prison or confined in a county jail and, during the period of imprisonment or confinement, files a civil action or notice of appeal of a civil action in forma pauperis shall be required to pay the full amount of the filing fee to the extent provided in this subdivision.

(1) In addition to the form required by this section for filing in forma pauperis, an inmate shall file a copy of a statement of account for any sums due to the inmate for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of the civil action or notice of appeal of a civil action. This copy shall be certified by the appropriate official of the Department of Corrections or a county jail.

(2) Upon filing the civil action or notice of appeal of a civil action, the court shall assess, and when funds exist, collect, as a partial payment of any required court fees, an initial partial filing fee of 20 percent of the greater of one of the following:

(A) The average monthly deposits to the inmate's account.

(B) The average monthly balance in the inmate's account for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of the civil action or notice of appeal.

(3) After payment of the initial partial filing fee, the inmate shall be required to make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month's income credited to the inmate's account. The Department of Corrections shall forward payments from this account to the clerk of the court each time the amount in the account exceeds ten dollars (\$10) until the filing fees are paid.

(4) In no event shall the filing fee collected pursuant to this subdivision exceed the amount of fees permitted by law for the commencement of a civil action or an appeal of a civil action.

(5) In no event shall an inmate be prohibited from bringing a civil action or appeal of a civil action solely because the inmate has no assets and no means to pay the initial partial filing fee.

SEC. 30. Section 70601 of the Government Code is amended to read:

70601. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a moratorium on increases in filing fees until January 1, 2008. No fee provided for in this chapter may be changed before January 1, 2008, except as may be required by the following:

(1) Legislative implementation of recommendations of the Task Force on County Law Libraries.

(2) Legislative implementation of recommendations for changes to the graduated filing fee for petitions in probate proceedings under subdivision (a) of Section 70650.

(b) The Judicial Council shall establish a Task Force on Civil Fees, including, but not limited to, representatives from the trial courts, the counties, the county law libraries, and the State Bar. On or before February 1, 2007, the task force shall make recommendations to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on the following:

(1) The effectiveness of the uniform fee structure, any operational or revenue problems, and how to address these issues.

(2) Whether a fee differential should be implemented based on the number of cases a party files in a year.

(3) A process to adjust fees in the future to accommodate inflation and other factors affecting operating costs for trial courts, county law libraries, and county programs that rely on court fees.

SEC. 31. Section 70626 of the Government Code is amended to read:

70626. (a) The fee for each of the following services is fifteen dollars (\$15). Amounts collected shall be distributed to the Trial Court Trust Fund under Section 68085.1.

(1) Issuing a writ of attachment, a writ of mandate, a writ of execution, a writ of sale, a writ of possession, a writ of prohibition, or any other writ for the enforcement of any order or judgment.

(2) Issuing an abstract of judgment.

(3) Issuing a certificate of satisfaction of judgment under Section 724.100 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(4) Certifying a copy of any paper, record, or proceeding on file in the office of the clerk of any court.

(5) Taking an affidavit, except in criminal cases or adoption proceedings.

(6) Acknowledgment of any deed or other instrument, including the certificate.

(7) Recording or registering any license or certificate, or issuing any certificate in connection with a license, required by law, for which a charge is not otherwise prescribed.

(8) Issuing any certificate for which the fee is not otherwise fixed.

(b) The fee for each of the following services is twenty dollars (\$20). Amounts collected shall be distributed to the Trial Court Trust Fund under Section 68085.1.

(1) Issuing an order of sale.

(2) Receiving and filing an abstract of judgment rendered by a judge of another court and subsequent services based on it, unless the abstract of judgment is filed under Section 704.750 or 708.160 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(3) Filing a confession of judgment under Section 1134 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(4) Filing an application for renewal of judgment under Section 683.150 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(5) Issuing a commission to take a deposition in another state or place under Section 2026.010 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(6) Filing and entering an award under the Workers' Compensation Law (Division 4 (commencing with Section 3200) of the Labor Code).

(7) Filing an affidavit of publication of notice of dissolution of partnership.

(8) Filing an appeal of a determination whether a dog is potentially dangerous or vicious under Section 31622 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

(9) Filing an affidavit under Section 13200 of the Probate Code, together with the issuance of one certified copy of the affidavit under Section 13202 of the Probate Code.

(10) Filing and indexing all papers for which a charge is not elsewhere provided, other than papers filed in actions or special proceedings, official bonds, or certificates of appointment.

SEC. 32. Section 70640 of the Government Code is amended to read:

70640. (a) It is the policy of the state that each court shall endeavor to provide a children's waiting room in each courthouse for children whose parents or guardians are attending a court hearing as a litigant, witness, or for other court purposes as determined by the court. To defray that expense, monthly allocations for children's waiting rooms shall be added to the monthly apportionment under subdivision (a) of Section 68085 for each court where a children's waiting room has been established or where the court has elected to establish such a service.

(b) The amount allocated to each court under this section shall be equal to the following: for each first paper filing fee as provided under Section 70611, 70612, 70613, 70614, or 70670, and each first paper or petition filing fee in a probate matter as provided under Section 70650, 70651, 70652, 70653, 70654, 70655, 70656, or 70658, the same amount as was required to be collected as of December 31, 2005, to the Children's Waiting Room Fund under former Section 26826.3 in the county in which the court is located when a fee was collected for the filing of a first paper in a civil action under former Section 26820.4.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court may make expenditures from these allocations in payment of any cost, excluding capital outlay, related to the establishment and maintenance of the children's waiting room, including personnel, heat, light, telephone, security, rental of space, furnishings, toys, books, or any other item in connection with the operation of a children's waiting room.

(d) If, as of January 1, 2006, there is a Children's Waiting Room Fund in the county treasury established under former Section 26826.3, the county immediately shall transfer the moneys in that fund to the court's operations fund as a restricted fund. By February 15, 2006, the county shall provide an accounting of the fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

(e) After January 1, 2006, the court may apply to the Judicial Council for an adjustment of the amount distributed to the fund for each uniform filing fee. A court that wishes to establish a children's waiting room, and does not yet have a distribution under this section, may apply to the Judicial Council for such a distribution. Applications under this subdivision shall be made according to trial court financial policies and procedures authorized by the Judicial Council under subdivision (a) of

Section 77206. Adjustments and new distributions shall be effective January 1 or July 1 of any year beginning January 1, 2006.

(f) The distribution to a court under this section per each filing fee shall be not less than two dollars (\$2) and not more than five dollars (\$5).

SEC. 33. Section 77207.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

77207.5. (a) The Judicial Council shall make monthly allocations to the trial courts from the Trial Court Trust Fund for automated administrative systems as provided in this section. These funds shall be used for the development and implementation of automated systems as described in subdivision (a) of Section 68090.8. As used in this subdivision, “automated administrative systems” does not include electronic reporting systems for use in a courtroom.

(b) The amount allocated annually to each trial court shall be the amount stated in this subdivision, which is based on the revenue collected in the local 2 percent automation funds in the 1994–95 fiscal year. The amounts are as follows:

Jurisdiction	Amount
Alameda.....	\$424,792
Alpine.....	2,034
Amador.....	11,006
Butte.....	59,332
Calaveras.....	18,652
Colusa.....	13,708
Contra Costa.....	218,186
Del Norte.....	11,208
El Dorado.....	54,374
Fresno.....	181,080
Glenn.....	19,264
Humboldt.....	48,160
Imperial.....	67,678
Inyo.....	30,402
Kern.....	277,328
Kings.....	57,026
Lake.....	20,328
Lassen.....	20,156
Los Angeles.....	3,144,530
Madera.....	52,502
Marin.....	114,766
Mariposa.....	3,904
Mendocino.....	30,068
Merced.....	55,652
Modoc.....	6,134
Mono.....	12,446
Monterey.....	183,464
Napa.....	30,550

Nevada.....	49,946
Orange.....	923,882
Placer.....	77,378
Plumas.....	9,206
Riverside.....	532,226
Sacramento.....	340,254
San Benito.....	14,700
San Bernardino.....	435,474
San Diego.....	718,442
San Francisco.....	272,528
San Joaquin.....	201,698
San Luis Obispo.....	130,020
San Mateo.....	329,518
Santa Barbara.....	162,858
Santa Clara.....	452,782
Santa Cruz.....	113,210
Shasta.....	44,394
Sierra.....	1,830
Siskiyou.....	37,000
Solano.....	119,364
Sonoma.....	119,004
Stanislaus.....	88,718
Sutter.....	37,382
Tehama.....	28,100
Trinity.....	7,648
Tulare.....	204,932
Tuolumne.....	16,642
Ventura.....	205,304
Yolo.....	48,556
Yuba.....	15,788

SEC. 34. Section 77209 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 142 of Chapter 75 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

77209. (a) There is in the State Treasury the Trial Court Improvement Fund.

(b) The Judicial Council shall reserve funds for projects by transferring 1 percent of the amount appropriated for support for operation of the trial courts to the Trial Court Improvement Fund. At least one-half of this amount shall be set aside as a reserve that shall not be allocated prior to March 15 of each year unless allocated to a court or courts for urgent needs.

(c) Any funds in the Trial Court Improvement Fund that are unencumbered at the end of the fiscal year shall be reappropriated to the Trial Court Improvement Fund for the following fiscal year.

(d) Moneys deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund shall be placed in an interest bearing account. Any interest earned shall accrue to the fund and shall be disbursed pursuant to subdivision (e).

(e) Moneys deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund may be disbursed for purposes of this section.

(f) Moneys deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund pursuant to Section 68090.8 shall be allocated by the Judicial Council for automated administrative system improvements pursuant to that section and in furtherance of Rule 991 of the California Rules of Court, as it read on July 1, 1996. As used in this subdivision, “automated administrative system” does not include electronic reporting systems for use in a courtroom.

(g) Moneys deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund shall be administered by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council may, with appropriate guidelines, delegate to the Administrative Director of the Courts the administration of the fund. Moneys in the fund may be expended to implement trial court projects approved by the Judicial Council. Expenditures may be made to vendors or individual trial courts that have the responsibility to implement approved projects.

(h) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the 2 percent automation fund moneys deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund pursuant to Section 68090.8 shall be allocated by the Judicial Council to statewide initiatives related to trial court automation and their implementation. The Judicial Council shall allocate the remainder of the moneys deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund as specified in this section.

For the purposes of this subdivision, the term “2 percent automation fund” means the fund established pursuant to Section 68090.8 as it read on June 30, 1996. As used in this subdivision, “statewide initiatives related to trial court automation and their implementation” does not include electronic reporting systems for use in a courtroom.

(i) Royalties received from the publication of uniform jury instructions shall be deposited in the Trial Court Improvement Fund and used for the improvement of the jury system.

(j) The Judicial Council shall present an annual report to the Legislature on the use of the Trial Court Improvement Fund. The report shall include appropriate recommendations.

SEC. 35. Section 123.6 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

123.6. (a) All workers’ compensation administrative law judges employed by the administrative director and supervised by the court administrator shall subscribe to the Code of Judicial Ethics adopted by the Supreme Court pursuant to subdivision (m) of Section 18 of Article VI of the California Constitution for the conduct of judges and shall not otherwise, directly or indirectly, engage in conduct contrary to that code or to the commentary to the Code of Judicial Ethics.

In consultation with both the court administrator and the Commission on Judicial Performance, the administrative director shall adopt regulations to enforce this section. Existing regulations shall remain in effect until new regulations based on the recommendations of the court administrator and the Commission on Judicial Performance have become effective. To the extent possible, the rules shall be consistent with the procedures

established by the Commission on Judicial Performance for regulating the activities of state judges, and, to the extent possible, with the gift, honoraria, and travel restrictions on legislators contained in the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Title 9 (commencing with Section 81000) of the Government Code). The court administrator shall have the authority to enforce the rules adopted by the administrative director.

(b) Honoraria or travel allowed by the court administrator, and not otherwise prohibited by this section in connection with any public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, or like gathering, the cost of which is significantly paid for by attorneys who practice before the board, may not be accepted unless the court administrator has provided prior approval in writing to the workers' compensation administrative law judge allowing him or her to accept those payments.

SEC. 36. Section 1214.1 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

1214.1. (a) In addition to any other penalty in infraction, misdemeanor, or felony cases, the court may impose a civil assessment of up to three hundred dollars (\$300) against any defendant who fails, after notice and without good cause, to appear in court for any proceeding authorized by law or who fails to pay all or any portion of a fine ordered by the court. This assessment shall be deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund, as provided in Section 68085.1 of the Government Code.

(b) The assessment shall not become effective until at least 10 calendar days after the court mails a warning notice to the defendant by first-class mail to the address shown on the notice to appear or to the defendant's last known address. If the defendant appears within the time specified in the notice and shows good cause for the failure to appear or for the failure to pay a fine, the court shall vacate the assessment.

(c) If a civil assessment is imposed under this section, no bench warrant or warrant of arrest shall be issued with respect to the failure to appear at the proceeding for which the assessment is imposed or the failure to pay the fine. An outstanding, unserved bench warrant or warrant of arrest for a failure to appear or for a failure to pay a fine shall be recalled prior to the subsequent imposition of a civil assessment.

(d) The assessment imposed under subdivision (a) shall be subject to the due process requirements governing defense and collection of civil money judgments generally.

(e) Each court and county shall maintain the collection program that was in effect on July 1, 2005, unless otherwise agreed to by the court and county. If a court and a county do not agree on a plan for the collection of civil assessments imposed pursuant to this section, or any other collections under Section 1463.010, after the implementation of Sections 68085.6 and 68085.7 of the Government Code, the court or the county may request arbitration by a third party mutually agreed upon by the Administrative Director of the Courts and the California State Association of Counties.

SEC. 37. Section 16020 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

16020. (a) Every driver and every owner of a motor vehicle shall at all times be able to establish financial responsibility pursuant to Section

16021, and shall at all times carry in the vehicle evidence of the form of financial responsibility in effect for the vehicle.

(b) “Evidence of financial responsibility” means any of the following:

(1) A form issued by an insurance company or charitable risk pool, as specified by the department pursuant to Section 4000.37.

(2) If the owner is a self-insurer, as provided in Section 16052 or a depositor, as provided in Section 16054.2, the certificate of self-insurance or the assignment of deposit letter issued by the department.

(3) An insurance covering note or binder pursuant to Section 382 or 382.5 of the Insurance Code.

(4) A showing that the vehicle is owned or leased by, or under the direction of, the United States or any public entity, as defined in Section 811.2 of the Government Code.

(c) For purposes of this section, “evidence of financial responsibility” also may be obtained by a law enforcement officer and court personnel from an electronic reporting system when that system becomes available for use by law enforcement officers.

(d) For purposes of this section, “evidence of financial responsibility” also includes any of the following:

(1) The name of the insurance company and the number of an insurance policy or surety bond that was in effect at the time of the accident or at the time that evidence of financial responsibility is required to be provided pursuant to Section 16028, if that information is contained in the vehicle registration records of the department.

(2) The identifying motor carrier of property permit number issued by the Department of the California Highway Patrol to the motor carrier of property as defined in Section 34601, and displayed on the motor vehicle in the manner specified by the Department of the California Highway Patrol.

(3) The identifying number issued to the household goods carrier, passenger stage carrier, or transportation charter party carrier by the Public Utilities Commission and displayed on the motor vehicle in the manner specified by the commission.

(4) The identifying number issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission or its successor federal agency, if proof of financial responsibility must be presented to the issuing agency as part of the identification number issuance process, and displayed on the motor vehicle in the manner specified by the issuing agency.

(e) Evidence of financial responsibility does not include any of the identification numbers in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subdivision (d) if the carrier is currently suspended by the issuing agency for lack or lapse of insurance or other form of financial responsibility.

SEC. 38. Section 16058.1 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

16058.1. The department shall develop a method by which law enforcement officers and court personnel, on and after July 1, 2006, may electronically verify that an insurance policy or bond for a motor vehicle has been issued.

SEC. 39. Section 905.7 of the Government Code, as added by Section 18 of this act, shall be effective as to causes of action that accrued on or after January 1, 2006. However, the enactment of Section 905.7 of the Government Code does not change the obligations and rights under the laws in existence at the time of accrual of judicial branch entities or of persons whose causes of action against a judicial branch entity accrued before January 1, 2006.

SEC. 40. It is the intent of the Legislature in amending Section 11135 of the Government Code to construe and clarify the meaning and effect of existing law and to reject the interpretation given to the law in *Garcia v. California State University* (Aug. 15, 2005, B178329) __ Cal.App.4th __ [2005 Cal. App. LEXIS 1267].

SEC. 41. The provisions of this act shall apply prospectively only, except with respect to the amendments made to Section 11135 of the Government Code.

SEC. 42. Section 3 of this bill shall only become operative if AB 1459 or SB 422 is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2006, and increases the jurisdictional limit of the small claims court.

SEC. 43. Section 23 of this bill shall only become operative if AB 1459 or SB 422 is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2006, and increases the jurisdictional limit of the small claims court, in which case Section 22 of this bill shall not be operative.