

PRESS RELEASE  
February 26, 2007

FROM: CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ARE INTRODUCED IN CALIFORNIA  
LEGISLATURE.

Three bills embodying recommendations of the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice have been introduced in the California Legislature for enactment during the current session of the legislature.

Senate Bill 511, sponsored by Senator Elaine K. Alquist (D-San Jose), will require the electronic recording of police interrogation in cases involving homicides and other serious felonies. The bill is based upon recommendations made by the Commission in its Report and Recommendations Regarding False Confessions, issued July 25, 2006.

<http://www.ccfaj.org/documents/reports/eyewitness/official/eyewitnessidrep.pdf>.

Senator Alquist carried a similar measure last year, which was enacted as Senate Bill 171. The measure was vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2006. Senate Bill 511 will directly address the concerns expressed by the Governor in his veto message with amendments that have been recommended by the Commission.

Senate Bill 756, sponsored by Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles), will require the appointment of a task force to draft mandatory guidelines for the conduct of police line-ups and photo arrays to increase the accuracy of eye-witness identifications. The bill is based upon recommendations made by the Commission in its Report and Recommendations Regarding Eyewitness Identification Procedures, issued April 13, 2006.

<http://www.ccfaj.org/documents/reports/eyewitness/official/eyewitnessidrep.pdf>.

A similar measure, sponsored by Senator Carole V. Migden (D-San Francisco), was enacted last year as Senate Bill 1544. The measure was vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2006. Senate Bill 756 will directly address the concerns expressed by the Governor in his veto message with amendments that have been recommended by the Commission.

Senate Bill 609, sponsored by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), will require the corroboration of testimony by in-custody informants. The bill is based upon recommendations made by the Commission in its Report and Recommendations Regarding Informant Testimony, issued November 20, 2006. <http://www.ccfaj.org/documents/reports/jailhouse/official/Official%20Report.pdf>.

Commission Chair John Van de Kamp expressed the hope that all three measures would be quickly enacted by the legislature and approved by the Governor. He stated, “These measures all gained the unanimous support of a Commission which represents the full spectrum of involvement in the criminal justice system, after extensive study and public hearings. They are all designed to reduce the risk of wrongful convictions in our system of justice.”