

**Assembly Committee on Business and Professions
Honorable Lou Correa, Chair**

**Legislative Summary
2001-2002 Session**

The Assembly Business and Professions Committee's core subject area is the protection of consumers. The committee considered a wide variety of consumer-related subjects during the 2001-02 legislative session, including:

- Reforms of the accounting profession and the California Board of Accountancy in order to protect Californians from future financial disasters similar to those associated with Enron, Arthur Andersen, and WorldCom.
- Requirements that optometrists and ophthalmologists must give patients their prescriptions for contact lenses so patients are free to choose where they purchase contact lenses.
- Reforms of the California Medical Board, including unprecedented public disclosure of malpractice settlements.
- Enhancements of the training and qualifications for private security guards.
- Restrictions on telemarketers and the establishment of a state "do not call" list for residential and wireless phones, and fines for violations by telephone solicitors.
- Restrictions on deferred deposit financial transactions (also known as "payday advances" or "payday loans").
- Reforms of the regulatory boards and bureaus at the Department of Consumer Affairs in order to enhance accountability, ensure that "protection of the public" is the highest priority for all boards and bureaus, and strengthen enforcement of violations of consumer protection laws.
- Requirements that credit reporting agencies provide consumers with information to help prevent identity theft and give free credit reports to victims of identity theft.
- Disclosures to consumers about fees and others costs associated with the use of prepaid telephone calling cards and services.
- Prohibitions on "junk" faxes.
- Regulation of the construction industry, including home service and repair contractors.

- Revisions of the flammability standards for home furnishings and bedding materials to protect families and children.
- Regulation of funeral establishments, cemeteries and crematories.
- Regulation of veterinarians, pet shops, and breeders of puppies and sentry dogs.
- Regulation of consumer product warranties.

The other major subject area within the jurisdiction of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee is public contracting, which involves billions of dollars. Examples of relevant legislation considered by the committee include:

- Easements and rights-of-way on public property for telecommunications and information technology corporations.
- Use of the design-build approach in contracting as a cost-saving alternative to traditional contracting methods for school facility construction and transportation-related projects.
- Establishment of outreach programs to encourage small businesses and disabled veteran business enterprises to contract with public agencies.
- Requiring the adoption of fuel-efficiency and air pollution emission standards for state-owned vehicles.
- Retrofits of public buildings and private residences for seismic safety and energy efficiency.
- Transfers of state-owned property to local governmental jurisdictions.
- Restrictions and increased penalties on public contractors who violate the law.

During the 2001-02 legislative session, 243 legislative proposals were referred to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Of these 243 proposals, 142 were enacted into law.

Identified below are examples of some of the significant legislation passed by the committee and signed into law by the Governor: