

# Youths would view drunk driving victims under new California law

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SACRAMENTO — Gov. George Deukmejian has signed legislation designed to “educate” youthful drunk driving offenders about the consequences of their actions by having them view the human cost of driving under the influence — in emergency rooms and county morgues.

The governor last week signed AB 1400 by Assemblyman Bill Duplissea, R-San Carlos, which permits a judge to send DUI offenders between the ages of 18 and 21 on “supervised visits” to emergency medical care facilities, coroner’s offices and treatment centers for chronic alcoholics. The visits would be supervised by medical personnel, the county coroner or designated assistants.

The program is intended to make “significant and lasting impressions” on youthful drunk drivers. Candidates for such a program would be screened for “suitability” prior to participation, which is voluntary.

Deukmejian approved a bill authorizing a six-month extension “for transition purposes” of a state-mandated judicial arbitration program that is being shifted to the counties for optional, locally funded use.

The bill, AB 846 by Assemblyman Larry Stirling, R-San Diego, also authorizes a majority of the judges of San Diego County Superior Court “to adopt local rules of court for civil case tracking” under the Trial Court Delay Reduction Act of 1986.

It postpones the shift from state-mandated to county-option judicial arbitration until Jan. 1, although Deukme-

jian proposed eliminating the state-mandated program.

“I will authorize this six-month extension for transition purposes and to give counties time to examine its merits for local funding,” Deukmejian said in a letter. “I will not sign a further extension of the mandate.”

A spokeswoman for Stirling’s office in Sacramento said the bill clarified an earlier measure, AB 439 by Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose, which made state-mandated judicial arbitration a program for county option. Stirling sponsored the extension measure, the spokeswoman said, in order to ease the transition — and to provide funding for thousands of cases currently in arbitration.

William N. Pierce, executive officer and jury commissioner for the San Diego County Superior Court, said San Diego is one of nine counties participating in the pilot Trial Court Delay Reduction Act of 1986. The package includes judicial arbitration and other time-saving measures to be tested. In addition to extending state funding for judicial arbitration, Pierce said AB 846 will enable the counties to seek other sources of funding to continue the program.

“The judiciary is slowly coming around to speeding up the trial process,” Stirling said, offering special praise to the San Diego court for its dispatch in speeding the process.

The governor also signed the following bills:

● AB 126 by Assemblyman Steve Peace, D-Chula Vista, which revises current law concerning the apprehension and prosecution of career criminals. The

legislation replaces the reference to robbery in the law with robbery of the first degree and robbery of the second degree.

● AB 852 by Assemblyman Tom Bane, D-Van Nuys, which allows any person “authorized to make or arrange loans secured by real property” to bring action for recovery of damages against a borrower when action is based on fraud.

● AB 880 by Stirling, which permits the state Department of Mental Health to exempt persons who are gaining “qualifying experience for licensure” from the licensing laws affecting marriage, family and child counseling.

● AB 890, by Assemblyman Gary Condit, D-Ceres, which supplements current law prohibiting the furnishing of controlled substances with an additional factor to be considered — whether the use of controlled substances was for purposes of “increasing athletic ability or performance.”

● AB 939 by Assemblywoman Sunny Mojonier, R-Encinitas, which extends existing provisions regarding attacks on the credibility of victims in sex crimes involving lewd or lascivious acts against children under 14.

● AB 1287, by Assemblyman Bill Jones, R-Fresno, which authorizes juvenile justice commissions to inquire into “nonconfidential aspects” of group home administration in facilities receiving placements from the juvenile court.

● AB 1910 by Assemblyman Elihu Harris, D-Oakland, which aims to ensure the “quality and uniformity” of correspondence law school programs.