



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Chief Justice Hails Governor's Approval Of Trial Court Facilities Legislation**

### *New Milestone Reached in Upgrade of State Courthouses*

San Francisco—Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today signed Senate Bill 10 (Dunn), important legislation that will help speed the transfer of courthouses from the counties to the state.

“Today, another milestone has been achieved in the modernization and safety of California courthouses,” declared Chief Justice Ronald M. George. “This legislation results from a historic collaboration among the state, county, and courts, and will help ease the transfer of court facilities from the counties to state governance, under judicial branch management. All Californians will benefit from the repair and upgrade of court facilities that result from the new transfer process.”

Sponsored with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Senate Bill 10 revises the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, which allows the transfer of court facilities from county governments to the state judicial branch. That act was designed to help ensure that all residents have equal access to safe, secure, and adequate court facilities.

Courthouses’ seismic ratings have created an impasse in the transfer of facilities to the state, since transfers must precede any state-funded courthouse improvement or new construction replacement projects intended for that facility.

Senate Bill 10 revises the Trial Court Facilities Act to allow certain courthouse facilities with a level five seismic rating to transfer to the state so long as counties retain liability for earthquake-related damage, replacement, injury, and loss to the same extent that counties would have if the responsibility for court facilities had not transferred to the state.

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The bill will allow for the orderly implementation of the Judicial Council's Trial Court Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan to address deficient security, access, and life safety systems in California trial court facilities.

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