

ANALYSIS

The budget of the Legislative Counsel Bureau is an increase of 23.6 percent, or \$65,014 over the amount estimated to be expended in 1951-52. This, however, is a continuation of the same level of service as authorized for the previous two years. This budget provides for the additional days and extra work involved in a general session of the Legislature in comparison with the budget session of the current fiscal year. The increase budgeted for 1952-53 is \$34,578, or 11.3 percent over estimated expenditures for the fiscal year which included the past general session of the Legislature. This is consistent with salary increase costs and normal price increases since that time. No new positions are requested.

The request for replacement equipment includes five electric typewriters as replacement for worn-out manual machines. These are justified on the basis of heavy volume of work and requirements for multiple copies. *We recommend approval of the budget as submitted.*

The Legislative Counsel Bureau, since occupying its new space in the State Capitol Annex, is now fairly well provided with an equipment complement and has, in the past two years, considerably expanded its library facilities for legal materials. Current legal services are an indispensable working tool for a staff engaged in statutory research and bill drafting. However, legal acquisitions, including binding, are now at the rate of \$2,900 annually. The most careful scrutiny should be imposed by the agency to avoid unnecessary duplication with the State Law Library, the purpose of which is to serve all state agencies.

The existing lease for space of the Legislative Counsel in San Francisco, at 995 Market Street, expires on June 30, 1952. It is recommended that consideration be given to providing space for the counsel in the State Office Building in San Francisco in order that Members of the Legislature may be more conveniently served, and the necessity for duplication of legal facilities minimized.

CODE COMMISSION

ITEM 18 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 16
Budget line No. 7

For Support of the Code Commission From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$20,250
Estimated to be expended in 1951-52 Fiscal Year	30,250
Decrease (33.1 percent)	\$10,000

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$20,250
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	20,250
Reduction	None

ANALYSIS

The staff work of the California Code Commission in the codification and revision of statutes (Government Code, Sections 10300-10351) is performed by the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Charges of the Legislative Counsel are based upon actual time-sheet records of work performed. Since the program of work on codification is scheduled for the interim between legislative sessions, the estimated work for the 1952-53 Fiscal

Year will be less than for the current fiscal year and is based upon the experience of 1950-51. The major part of drafting for the Code Commission's program to be submitted to the 1953 General Session will be completed by December, 1952.

We recommend approval of the amount requested.

COMMISSION ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

ITEM 19 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 17
Budget line No. 7

For Support of the Commission on Uniform State Laws From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$11,970
Estimated to be expended in 1951-52 Fiscal Year	7,960
Increase (50.4 percent)	\$4,010

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages	\$3,180	---	\$3,180	17	38
Operating expense	830	---	830	17	48
Equipment	---	---	---	---	---
Total increase	\$4,010	---	\$4,010		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$11,970
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	11,970
Reduction	None

ANALYSIS

The increase in the budget request of the Commission on Uniform State Laws is an increase of \$4,010, or 50.4 percent over estimated expenditures for 1951-52. The increase is primarily for employment of legal counsel to assist the commissioners in presenting and explaining uniform laws approved by the commissioners and submitted to the Legislature for adoption. The Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws has now completed and is recommending to the states for adoption a new Uniform Commercial Code revising and superseding other uniform laws already in effect in California. Although it would not be recommended that the California Commission on Uniform State Laws be provided with permanent legal counsel to meet with interested groups, including legislative committees, to explain and interpret the provisions of proposed uniform laws, it is our belief that the proposed Uniform Commercial Code is of sufficient complexity and state-wide interest to warrant the use of special counsel through the period of the 1953 General Session. The members of the commission are nonsalaried appointees, and it is unlikely that they as individual members will be able to meet the demands of time which appear certain to be made in connection with presentation of the Uniform Commercial Code.

An allocation of \$4,010 from the Emergency Fund was made to the commission during the current year to provide for the employment of counsel and extra stenographic help beginning January 1, 1952.

Included in the additional operating expense is a nonrecurring item of \$1,000 for the rental of conference space. For the coming year the annual meeting of the Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, to be attended by commissioners from all states, will be held in San Francisco. The increased cost of providing space for the conference is partially offset by a decrease in travel for the commissioners.

We recommend approval of the amount requested including the proposed position of Counsel, Grade 2, but recommend that it be approved only for the period of the budget year and be terminated thereafter, whether or not the Uniform Commercial Code is adopted by the 1953 General Session.

SUPREME COURT

ITEM 20 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 18
Budget line No. 6

For Support of the Supreme Court From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$442,069
Estimated to be expended in 1951-52 Fiscal Year	427,778
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Increase (3.3 percent)	\$14,291

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages	\$11,844	\$11,844	---	18	48
Operating expense	1,705	1,705	---	18	64
Equipment	742	742	---	18	71
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Total increase	\$14,291	\$14,291	---		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$442,069
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	442,069
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Reduction	None

ANALYSIS

The amount of \$442,069 requested for the 1952-53 Fiscal Year is an increase of \$14,291, or 3.3 percent, over the estimated expenditure for the 1951-52 Fiscal Year.

It should be pointed out that during the Fiscal Year 1951-52 it was necessary to make allocations from the Emergency Fund in the amount of \$17,474. The \$17,474 from the Emergency Fund includes \$10,279 for the positions of reporter of decisions and legal secretary. These two positions were new positions approved by the Department of Finance in the current fiscal year. The amount of \$3,077 was granted because anticipated salary savings were not realized. The balance of \$4,118 was requested to cover price increases in operating expenses. There is no apparent increase in work load. Revenues for this agency are estimated to be in the same amount as the current fiscal year.

Approval of the amount budgeted is recommended.