



1400 K Street, Suite 400 • Sacramento, California 95814  
Phone: 916.658.8200 Fax: 916.658.8240  
www.cacities.org

April 20, 2015

The Honorable Assembly Member Kristin Olsen  
Assembly Republican Leader  
State Capitol, Room 3104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACA 1 (Olsen) Legislative Transparency**  
**NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

On behalf of the League of California Cities, I am pleased to advise you of our support of your ACA 1 (Olsen). This measure would enhance public access to the Legislature by requiring a bill to be in print and available on the Internet for at least 72 hours prior to a vote on its final passage in either house of the Legislature.

The California Constitution already includes various provisions which promote the transparency of its affairs. The proceedings of each house of the Legislature and its committees are required to be “open and public<sup>1</sup>” and newly introduced legislation must be in print for a minimum of 30 days<sup>2</sup> prior to the Legislature taking action. These are positives and promote public access.

Yet, there have been times, typically connected to the adoption of a budget or at the end of legislative sessions, when measures are hastily written or rewritten, often in the middle of the night, and rushed to a vote with little or no opportunity for the public to read and digest the legislation and communicate with their legislators. Such actions undermine representative government, create the perception of favors being granted to special interests, and reduce public confidence in the institution.

Requiring legislation to be in print and available on the Internet for at least 72 hours, except as narrowly provided for true emergencies declared by the Governor, will ensure a minimum level of public transparency for legislative actions. Given the size of our state, the diversity of its population and the potential of legislation to have widespread impact, such transparency is essential for the proper functioning of representative government. Moreover, this accommodation can be provided without unduly interfering with the conduct of legislative business.

Thank you for your leadership and effort to expand public access to the decisions of the Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Carrigg".

Dan Carrigg  
Legislative Director

Cc: All Senators and Assembly Members

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<sup>1</sup> Article 4, Section 7(c) of the California Constitution

<sup>2</sup> Article 4, Section 8 (a) of the California Constitution