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**Assembly Bill No. 177**

## CHAPTER 257

An act to add and repeal Sections 367.8 and 367.9 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and to amend Sections 68645, 69951, and 77205 of, to amend, repeal, and add Section 50050 of, to add and repeal Sections 68119 and 69950.5 of, and to repeal and add Section 69950 of, the Government Code, to amend Section 1465.9 of, to amend and repeal Sections 1001.15, 1001.16, 1203.1c, 1203.1m, and 1214.5 of, to amend, repeal, and add Sections 1001.90, 1202.4, 1203.1, 1203.1ab, 1203.4a, 1203.9, 1205, 2085.5, 2085.6, and 2085.7 of, and to repeal Section 1463.07 of, the Penal Code, and to amend and repeal Section 40508.5 of, to amend, repeal, and add Section 40510.5 of, and to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 42240) to Chapter 2 of Division 18 of, the Vehicle Code, relating to public safety, and making an appropriation therefor, to take effect immediately, bill related to the budget.

[ Approved by Governor September 23, 2021. Filed with Secretary of State September 23, 2021. ]

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 177, Committee on Budget. Public safety.

(1) Existing law authorizes a presiding judge of a superior court to request that the Chairperson of the Judicial Council order the court to take certain actions when war, an act of terrorism, public unrest or calamity, epidemic, natural disaster, or other substantial risk to the health and welfare of court personnel or the public, or the danger thereof, threatens the orderly operation of the courts or makes court facilities unsafe, including, but not limited to, holding court sessions anywhere within the county, transferring civil cases to another county, or extending the time periods for bringing an action to trial, as specified. Existing law further authorizes the Chairperson of the Judicial Council to issue an order of their own accord authorizing multiple courts to implement some or all of that relief if the chairperson determines that emergency conditions threaten the orderly operation of superior court locations in more than one county, or render presence in, or access to, affected facilities unsafe.

By executive order, the Governor authorized the Judicial Council or its Chairperson to take action, via emergency order or statewide rule, necessary to maintain the safe and orderly operation of the courts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as specified.

This bill would, until January 31, 2022, provide the Judicial Council and its Chairperson with continuing emergency authority, as specified. The bill would require the Judicial Council to submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2023, on the use of remote technology in civil actions by the trial courts, as specified. The bill would require the Judicial Council to convene a working group for the purpose of recommending a statewide framework for remote civil court proceedings that addresses equal and fair access to justice, as specified. The bill would require the Judicial Council to submit a report with the working group's recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2023.

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