

# SEXUALAWREPORTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Homosexual Discrimination Prohibited by  
Governor's Executive Order Just Issued

California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an executive order this week which prohibits discrimination in state employment on the basis of an individual's sexual preference. The order (a copy is attached) applies to all agencies, departments, boards and commissions of the Executive Branch of the state government under the jurisdiction of the Governor. The issuance of the order appeared to have gone unnoticed by the press in the flurry of events in Sacramento caused by the Lieutenant Governor the day preceding Brown's departure for Africa.

This is only the second such order ever issued by a governor of any state. The first was issued in 1975 by former Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp. Prior to leaving office last year, Shapp reissued an even stronger order protecting gays.

Under the order just issued by Governor Brown, the State Personnel Board is given the authority to carry out the order and to remedy violations of it.

The order appears to be the outgrowth of several years work with the Governor by civil liberties and human rights organizations. "Soon after the Consenting Adults Bill was enacted by the Legislature in 1976, Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp contacted Governor Brown at my request, urging him to issue an executive order similar to the one which was just signed by the Governor this week," remarked Los Angeles attorney Thomas F. Coleman. Coleman, who is co-chair of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, added, "This has been a continuing effort for several years and it is heartening to see the Governor take a firm position on this human rights issue."

The national significance of Brown's order was emphasized by Anthony Silvestre, chairperson of the Pennsylvania Council on Sexual Minorities, the state agency in Pennsylvania authorized to monitor compliance with the first such order ever issued. Silvestre stated, "News of Governor Brown's order is encouraging. Coupled with the recent executive orders of various mayors throughout the country, it is clear that change through the executive branch is proving to be a successful method of securing rights for lesbians and gay men."

Executive Department  
State of California

EXECUTIVE ORDER B-54-79

WHEREAS, Article I of the California Constitution guarantees the inalienable right of privacy for all people which must be vigorously enforced; and

WHEREAS, government must not single out sexual minorities for harassment or recognize sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination; and

WHEREAS, California must expand its investment in human capital by enlisting the talent of all members of society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effective immediately:

The agencies, departments, boards and commissions within the Executive Branch of state government under the jurisdiction of the Governor shall not discriminate in state employment against any individual based solely upon the individual's sexual preference. Any alleged acts of discrimination in violation of this directive shall be reported to the State Personnel Board for resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 4th day of April, 1973.

*Edmund G. Brown Jr.*  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

*Wanda Young Lee*  
Secretary of State

By *Michael J. Sagan*  
Deputy Secretary of State

