

# Newspapers sue to get pay info from Legislature

By Michael J. Mishak, Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO – A group of newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times, has filed a lawsuit against the California Legislature, alleging that the institution violated state open-records laws by refusing to release the office budgets and spending records of lawmakers and legislative committees.

Last month, the Assembly Rules Committee rejected multiple requests for legislators' budgets, including one from a lawmaker, on the grounds that the information was exempt from public disclosure under the Legislative Open Records Act. Government administrators cited provisions excluding "legislative memoranda" and "correspondence" from disclosure.

The lawsuit, filed Friday in Sacramento County Superior Court, said the fiscal records "concern the conduct of the people's business and the use of public resources to conduct that business, and do not fall under any of the exemptions" in the open-records law.

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