

# Pier financing bill dropped in favor of 2 wider proposals

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HUNTINGTON BEACH — Assemblyman Dennis Brown has shelved legislation that would have helped finance the \$10.6 million cost of rebuilding the city pier, his office said Wednesday.

Instead, Brown, R-Rossmore, will throw his support behind two Democrat-sponsored bills designed to provide funding for pier-restoration projects statewide.

"If we can get a group of folks together who have piers, it spreads it out and gets more support," Brown aide Bill Bailey said.

The two bills on which the city now pins its hopes have been well-received so far.

The Assembly Natural Resources Committee on Monday voted 11-0 for bill that would give Huntington Beach \$1.5 million of \$13.7 million in restoration funding for 13 California piers. The legislation, by Assemblyman John Burton, D-

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**Bill Bailey**

Assemblyman Dennis Brown's aide

San Francisco, will be heard next in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

On Tuesday, the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee voted 13-0 for a bill that would authorize a \$710 million bond issue for various wildlife, coastal, park and museum projects.

Although the bill, by Assemblyman Jim Costa, D-Fresno, doesn't mention the Huntington Beach pier specifically, Bailey said it would be a natural candidate for funding should the bond issue pass. It, too, will face its next test in the Ways and Means Committee.

Local officials said they concur

with Brown's decision to put aside his bill, which the fiscal conservative introduced in December and said was his first appropriation measure in 11 years in the Legislature.

"There is interest in Sacramento for overall pier-restoration bills rather than pork-barrel legislation," said former Huntington Beach Mayor Ron Shekman, who is working on raising money for the new pier.

The city was forced to close the existing 75-year-old pier in July when an engineer's report found it structurally unsafe. A new pier is being designed and is scheduled to open in the summer of 1991.

The city expects to bear about half the construction costs.

Although Brown's bill has been taken off the hearing calendars, Bailey said the legislation will not be entirely withdrawn. If the other two bills die, Brown will retain the option to resurrect his own, he said.

