Inventory of the Frank D. Lanterman Papers

Collection number: LP414

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Inventory of the Frank D. Lanterman Papers

Dates: 1953-1984

Collection number: LP414

Creator: Lanterman, Frank D.

Collection Size: 8 cubic feet

Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: The Frank D. Lanterman Papers consist of 8 cubic feet of textual records and one audiocassette tape that reflect the interests and political activities of Assembly Member Lanterman during his 28 years in the California State Legislature. Throughout his 28 years in the legislature, Lanterman took great interest in issues related to mental health and developmental disabilities. In addition to mental health, Lanterman also took interest in issues related to water rights throughout the state, as well as ethics within the legislative body.

Physical location: California State Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Frank D. Lanterman Papers, LP414:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Biography

Frank Dexter Lanterman was born in the Los Angeles region on November 4, 1901 and attended public elementary and high schools in Los Angeles and Glendale. He went on to study organ, piano, and music composition at the University of Southern California College of Music. Lanterman continued to maintain a strong interest in music throughout his life and played in many metropolitan theaters in Los Angeles as well as the State Theatre in Melbourne, Australia. Later in life he had the famous 34-ton Fox Theater Wurlitzer organ of San Francisco installed in a specially built room in his home. Lanterman resided in La Cañada, California beginning in 1914 and worked chiefly as a successful land developer.

Lanterman was involved in many community activities before entering state politics, including membership in the Kiwanis, the La Cañada Chamber of Commerce, and the La Cañada Church of the Lighted Window. From 1938 to 1950 he served as an elected member of the Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County. In 1950, he was elected to the California
State Assembly as a Republican representative of the forty-eighth district, which included the foothill communities of La Cañada, La Crescenta, and Altadena in Los Angeles County. Following redistricting in 1962 he represented the forty-seventh Assembly district, which included the area he formerly represented as well as the cities of Pasadena and Glendale. Redistricting occurred once again in 1973, leading Lanterman to represent the forty-second Assembly district, which consisted of La Cañada, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and the northern portion of Glendale, all within Los Angeles County.

Throughout his 28 years in the legislature, Lanterman took great interest in issues related to mental health and developmental disabilities. In 1967, he helped to pass the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (SB 677, Chapter 1667), which ended the involuntary commitment of mentally disordered persons within mental health institutions in California. Two years later he authored the Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act (AB 225, Chapter 1594), which expanded the state’s network of regional centers providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities. One of the new centers was named the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center in his honor. In 1973, Lanterman authored the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act (AB 846, Chapter 546), an expansion of the 1968 law that stated that individuals with developmental disabilities would have the same legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed to all other citizens of California. Lanterman played an important role in the passage of several other bills related to the rights of the developmentally disabled, including many that allowed them greater freedom of choice within higher education.

In addition to mental health, Lanterman also took interest in issues related to water rights throughout the state, as well as ethics within the legislative body. In 1966 he played an important role in the passage of Proposition 1-A, which made effective AB 173, also known as the Gibson-Waldie-Lanterman Act. This law introduced new conflict of interest and code of ethics language into the legislature and represented a significant reform effort in state politics. Lanterman was also a respected authority on local government and state fiscal and budgetary issues.

Lanterman retired from the Assembly after the 1977-1978 legislative session and passed away in his hometown, renamed La Cañada Flintridge, in April of 1981.

During his term in the legislature, Frank D. Lanterman served on the following committees:

**California State Assembly, 1950-1978**

**Standing Committees**
- Efficiency and Cost Control, 1973-1974
- Finance and Insurance, 1951-1956
- Governmental Efficiency and Economy, 1951-1953
- Health, 1975-1978
- Municipal and County Government, 1951-1964
- Revenue and Taxation, 1957-1968
- Social Welfare, 1951-1958
  - Chair, 1953-1954
  - Vice Chair, 1957-1958
- Transportation, 1969-1978
- Ways and Means, 1954-1978
  - Chair, 1969-1970
  - Vice Chair, 1967-1968, 1971-1978

**Subcommittees**
- Health Subcommittee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, 1975-1978
- Transportation Subcommittee on Air Quality, 1975-1978
- Transportation Subcommittee on Transit, 1975-1978

**Interim Committees**
- Tideland Reclamation and Development in Northern California, Related Traffic Problems, and Relief of Congestion on Transbay Crossings, 1951

**Research Committees**
Select Committee on County Jurisdiction, 1972-1974
*Chair, 1972-1974
Select Committee on Mentally Disordered Criminal Offenders, 1973-1974
*Chair, 1973-1974
Special Sub委员会 on Aging, 1977-1978

Select Committees
Administration of Justice, 1969-1972
*Vice Chair, 1971-1972
Mentally Ill and Handicapped Children, 1969-1970
*Chair, 1969-1970

Special Committees
Investigation of Administration of the California Institute for Men at Chino, 1953
Investigation of Unemployment Insurance Program, 1953
Special Joint Committee to Study the Old Age Assistance Initiative Measure, 1951

Joint Committees
Assessment Practices, 1957-1958
Health Sciences Education, 1973-1976
Legislative Budget, 1969-1978
*Vice Chair, 1969-1972
Legislative Building Space Needs, 1972-1974
Legislative Ethics, 1967-1970
Public Education System, 1959-1960
Siting of Teaching Hospitals, 1972-1974

In addition, as a member of the legislature, Lanterman served as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Aging, 1956-1958, the Committee on Executive Salaries, 1972-1974, and the California Information Systems Implementation Committee, 1977-1978.

Scope and Content
The Frank D. Lanterman Papers consist of 8 cubic feet of textual records and one audiocassette tape that reflect the interests and political activities of Assembly Member Lanterman during his 28 years in the California State Legislature. The records are divided into four series: Bill Files (1955-1978), Mental Health Files (1954-1978), Subcommittee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Files (1953-1976), and Subject Files (1961-1984).

Bill files constitute a sizeable portion of the collection at about 3.5 cubic feet. They document the bills authored or co-authored by Assemblyman Lanterman and may include committee analyses, letters from interested parties, and comments of affected agencies. These files show Lanterman's close involvement in such issues as mental health, transportation, special education, state hospitals, water, and conservatorship. Bill files for earlier sessions are more sparse and may not include every bill authored by Lanterman for that session. Several files related to landmark mental health legislation are included in this series.

Mental health files make up about 2 cubic feet of the collection and contain many newspaper clippings, notes, and correspondence related to California's mental health system. Lanterman was particularly interested in perinatal health, which focuses on the prevention of mental disabilities through careful monitoring of women with high-risk pregnancies. Found within this series is a large amount of reports, surveys, and statistical information that was kept by Lanterman to aid in the creation of future legislation to improve the state's mental health system.

The Subcommittee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities files is the smallest series in the collection at about 1 cubic foot of textual materials and one audiocassette tape. The files in this series were collected by Lanterman in relation to his membership on the Assembly Health subcommittee during the 1975-1976 and 1977-1978 legislative sessions. They may include correspondence, newspaper clippings, legislative research, reports, and other materials that assisted Lanterman and other members of the subcommittee in authoring and voting on mental health legislation. Important topics include revisions to the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, hearings on landmark legislation, and a survey on the state of California's mental health system. Several files in this series relate to the AB3800-AB3809 package of 1976, which addressed the reform of California's regional mental health centers.
Subject files constitute 1.5 cubic feet of the collection and contain correspondence, reports, publications, press releases, meeting notes, and a range of other materials. Lanterman took interest in a wide variety of topics for both personal and political reasons, including music, transportation, water, his constituency, environmental quality and air pollution, alcoholism, and the history and development of his home town of La Cañada. A report created in 1984 by the legislature in memoriam of Lanterman’s death only three years prior documents his accomplishments in passing important mental health legislation throughout his time in the Assembly.

**Related Collections at the California State Archives**

- Assembly Health Committee Records, Assembly Subcommittee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Senate Health and Human Services Committee Records, Senate Subcommittee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Genetic Diseases
- Department of Developmental Services Records
- Tom Bates Papers

**Other Repositories**

- Additional records may be found in the Frank Lanterman collection within the Special Collections Department, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, 90089-0371.
- Additional records may also be found in the Frank Lanterman collection at the Lanterman House Archives, La Cañada Flintridge, California, 91011-3313.

**Oral History**


Tapes and transcripts for this interview can also be found at the Regional Oral History Office at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California.

**Accruals**

No further accruals are expected.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- Lanterman, Frank D
- Mental health - California
- Special education - California
Series 1 Bill Files 1955-1978

Physical Description: 86 file folders

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

Scope and Content Note

Bill files created by Lanterman may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, letters of support or opposition, author's statements, newspaper clippings, correspondence, committee statements, and other information. Of particular interest are those bills relating to mental health, including SB677 from 1967 (Lanterman-Petris-Short Act), AB1454 from 1968 (Short-Doyle Act), AB225 from 1969 (Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act), and AB846 from 1977 (Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act). Other topics of interest to Lanterman include transportation, alcoholism, perinatal health, special education, water rights, and conservatorship. Several legislative sessions in this series do not include every bill authored by Lanterman.

1955: AB1158-AB3301 (1ff) LP414:1
1965: AB22-AB3406, ACR21, HR179 (3ff) LP414:2-3, 5
1965: SB1279 (1ff) LP414:4
1966: AB52 (1ff) LP414:6
1967: AB288-AB2238, HR372-HR471 (5ff) LP414:7-10, 21
1967: SB67-SB677 (10ff) LP414:11-20
1968: AB101-AB1950, HR157 (6ff) LP414:22-26, 28
1968: SB555-SB832 (1ff) LP414:27
1969: AB70-AB2180, HR468 (6ff) LP414:29-33, 35
1969: SB62-SB778 (1ff) LP414:34
1970: AB79-AB4260 (4ff) LP414:36-39
1970: SB127-SB242 (1ff) LP414:40
1971: AB2646-AB2775 (2ff) LP414:41-42
1972: AB314-AB2127, ACR59 (2ff) LP414:43-44
1973-1974: AB47-AB4513, HR88 (4ff) LP414:45-47, 49
1977-1978: AB187-AB3690, ACR6, HR70 (1ff) LP414:75-84, 86
1977-1978: SB173-SB2212 (1ff) LP414:85

Series 2 Mental Health Files 1954-1978

Physical Description: 60 file folders

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note

The files in this series contain correspondence, memoranda, reports, newspaper and newsletter clippings, notes, hearing transcripts, press releases, and other materials collected by Lanterman that relate to mental health in California. Topics of particular interest include facilities for the mentally disabled, studies and reports on the state of California's public mental health system, perinatal programs, funding of regional centers, various state mental hospitals, and statistics on mental health.

For a complete list of Mental Health Files, see Appendix B in Additional Series Information.

Appendix A: List of Mental Health Files
Series 3 Subcommittee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Files 1953-1976

Physical Description: 19 file folders and 1 audiocassette tape

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading

Access Information
Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

Scope and Content Note
The files in this series were collected by Lanterman in the course of his duties as member of the Assembly Health Subcommittee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities during the 1975-1976 and 1977-1978 legislative sessions. They may contain meeting notes, correspondence, legislative research materials, newspaper clippings, and other documents used by the Subcommittee to prepare or vote on important legislation. Significant topics in this series include budgets, revisions to the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, speeches, a survey on the state of California's mental health system, and legislative research for the AB3800-AB3809 package of 1976, dealing with reform of the state's regional centers. An audiocassette tape containing hearing transcripts has been separated to a cold-storage vault for preservation purposes and a separation sheet has been placed in the subject file to alert the researcher to the existence of this tape. Audio/videotapes have been removed to cold storage and separation sheets are included within the file folders to indicate this.

Series 4 Subject Files 1961-1984

Physical Description: 80 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note
Subject files may include correspondence, reports, publications, press releases, meeting notes, newspaper clippings, and other materials relating to a wide variety of topics of interest to Lanterman. Of particular note are subjects relating to various California counties, water, transportation, reapportionment, constituent correspondence, air pollution, and music. Also of interest is a file on Disney that includes information on the possible use of music from the film Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs for the 1967 Republican Party campaign. A memorial report created in 1984 to honor the legislative accomplishments of Lanterman can also be found within this series.

For a complete list of subject headings, see Appendix B in Additional Series Information.

Appendix B: List of Subject Files