

# San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

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## Bay Area News Roundup Local news all the time

Bay City News Report

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Gov. Gray Davis has signed into law a bill that requires the Medical Board of California to study the electronic transmission of prescriptions by physicians and other health care providers and report its recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2003.

The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, was signed by the governor Monday.

In addition to increased speed, one of the proposed benefits of prescriptions sent over the Internet is the circumvention of difficulties caused by doctors' legendarily poor penmanship.

Simitian's office said there are an estimated 150 million inquiries made each year by pharmacists for clarification of written prescriptions.

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