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— GOV. GRAY DAVIS

CAPITAL IDEA CONTEST

THREE SUGGESTIONS BY BAY AREA CONSTITUENTS BECOME STATE LAW

By Ann E. Marimow

Mercury News Sacramento Bureau

SACRAMENTO — In the California politics version of reality television, the winners of Palo Alto Assemblyman Joe Simitian's "There Oughta Be a Law" contest collected their prizes Friday when Gov. Gray Davis signed into law their entries on pesticides, antifreeze and gift certificates.

"At a time when people are turned off by government and think it's too remote, this

shows it matters if you get involved," said an unusually ebullient Davis at a signing ceremony with the bills' champions: a nurse from Cupertino, a plastic surgeon from Portola Valley and a community relations director from Mountain View.

"If you bring an idea to a legislator, it can become law. I know that sounds shocking," Davis added, "but it happened today on three occasions."

Still, the "Survivor Sacramento" experi-

ence was not quite as glamorous or rewarding as one contestant had imagined. Lauren Ward, whose 6-month-old Westie terrier, Angus, had to be euthanized last year after ingesting antifreeze, said she was turned off by her perception that big business lobbyists dictated the agenda in Sacramento.

Ward's proposal (AB 2474) requires that

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IF YOU'RE INTERESTED,

The second round of Simitian's contest is already under way. To request an entry form or more information, call (650) 688-6330, or e-mail assemblymember.simitian@assembly.ca.gov. Entries are due by 5 p.m. Oct. 18.

