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By Henry Weinstein

Assembly Oks Holocaust Claims Bill

The California Assembly passed bill AB 1334, a bill the will make it easier for Holocaust survivors and beneficiaries to prevail in lawsuits filed against European insurers for payment against Holocaust-era insurance policies.

The bill, which passed by a vote of 74-0, permits victims of the Holocaust and their heirs to file suit against any business in California or conducts or retains sufficient business contacts within the state to satisfy jurisdictional requirements.

About a dozen European insurance companies will be affected by the bill, all of which do business in California through their affiliates or under their own names. The companies allegedly failed to honor Holocaust-era claims and are being sued in California and New York.