

Lawmaker: Calif. needs laws to boost earthquake safety

By Rong-Gong Lin II, Los Angeles Times

A Los Angeles lawmaker says California needs new statewide laws that boost earthquake safety, and wants to toughen rules on how strong new buildings should be and require cities to identify buildings at risk of collapse.

Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian, D-North Hollywood, said the bills are important for keeping California functioning after a major earthquake.

California's construction requirements are so minimal that even a new building can be legally built to a weakness that would leave it severely damaged in an earthquake – so much that it would have to be torn down, Nazarian said.

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