



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Disability access measure advances to governor

SB 251 will encourage business owners to improve access

SACRAMENTO (Sept. 10, 2015) – The state Senate gave final approval Tuesday to a bill co-sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California and the California Chamber of Commerce intended to give owners of businesses incentive to improve access for people with disabilities.

SB 251, authored by Sen. Richard Roth (D-Riverside), now goes to the desk of Gov. Jerry Brown for his signature.

“People with disabilities should have full access to public accommodations,” said CAOC president Brian D. Chase. “Businesses need some help in order to become compliant. SB 251 attempts to meet the needs of both groups. We do not always see eye-to-eye with CalChamber, but on this issue we have found a common ground that we feel is in the best interests of all.”

SB 251 will give merchants a short window of protection from statutory damages after their business has been inspected by a state-approved Certified Access Specialist (CASP) and any violations are corrected within 120 days of the inspection, or up to six months if a building permit is required.

In addition, SB 251 provides a tax credit for some expenditures to improve access, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed, and directs the California Commission on Disability Access to develop programs to educate businesses and increase the number of trained and certified CASPs.

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs' attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

For more information:

**J.G. Preston, CAOC Press Secretary, 916-669-7126, jgpreston@caoc.org
Eric Bailey, CAOC Communications Director, 916-669-7122, ebailey@caoc.org**