



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Bill to streamline demurrer process goes to governor

SB 383 sponsored by CAOC, defense bar, judges

**SACRAMENTO (Sept. 8, 2015)** – A bill sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that will reduce costs and improve the efficiency of California’s trial courts is headed for the office of Gov. Jerry Brown. SB 383 passed a concurrence vote in the state Senate today after minor amendments in the Assembly last week.

SB 383, authored by Sen. Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont) and co-sponsored by the California Defense Counsel and California Judges Association, will streamline the lengthy demurrer process so that cases can move efficiently through the judicial system. The bill’s provisions will help California’s courts deal with the overloaded dockets they face due to budget cuts by enabling parties to resolve some of the demurrer objections out of court.

A demurrer (an objection by the defendant that the plaintiff’s allegations do not state a legally valid claim) can take months to be heard, leading to delays in justice for the plaintiff, additional costs for the defendant and extra work for already overburdened judges. SB 383 will encourage out-of-court resolutions by requiring the parties meet to discuss the merits of their arguments before a demurrer can be filed. The bill will also streamline the process by enacting strict deadlines and creating standards that encourage both sides to efficiently file demurrers and amend complaints.

“SB 383 will move cases more swiftly through the judicial system and give our overworked judges a break,” said CAOC president Brian D. Chase. “The fact that we have built a coalition of plaintiffs attorneys, the defense bar and judges in support of this bill shows these changes are in the best interest of making justice more efficient for all Californians.”

*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:**

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