



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-sponsored bill to aid dying asbestos victims wins approval in Assembly Judiciary Committee

SB 632 will end marathon depositions of the terminally ill

SACRAMENTO (June 20, 2017) – Californians who are dying from illnesses caused by exposure to asbestos will be protected from grueling marathon depositions under a Consumer Attorneys of California-sponsored bill that won approval from the Assembly Judiciary Committee today.

Senate Bill 632, authored by Sen. Bill Monning (D-Carmel), corrects a problem that has cropped up in recent years in civil cases involving terminally ill asbestos victims.

In 2012 the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1875 to protect victims with a terminal illness from abusive depositions. But since then, courts dealing with asbestos cases have used broad language permitting “judicial discretion” to ignore time limits.

SB 632 requires that plaintiffs dying of asbestos diseases such as mesothelioma will have to endure no more than 7 hours of defense deposition questioning. A judge can grant an additional 7 hours, but only with a finding that the additional time will not endanger the health of the plaintiff.

The measure now goes to the Assembly floor and, once approved, to the desk of Gov. Jerry Brown.

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.

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