



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## CAOC/CalChamber bill on disability access advances

Business owners making good-faith efforts would get relief under SB 251

**SACRAMENTO (May 13, 2015)** – A bill co-sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California and the California Chamber of Commerce designed to encourage businesses to take proactive steps to improve access for people with disabilities was approved by the state Senate Government and Finance Committee today with bipartisan support.

SB 251, authored by Sen. Richard Roth (D-Riverside), will give merchants a short window of protection from disability access litigation if they take the initiative to have their businesses inspected by a state-approved Certified Access Specialist (CASp) and any violations are corrected within 90 days of the inspection. The bill, which its author conceded remains a “work in progress” as it moves through the legislative process, also includes a provision giving business owners 15 days to correct certain violations relating to parking lot striping and signage, without penalty.

“We very much want to see every California business do what is necessary to ensure access for all,” said CAOC President Brian Chase. “Our hope is Sen. Roth’s bill can help accomplish what has been the goal since the Americans with Disabilities Act was approved a quarter century ago.”

Wednesday’s vote marks the second unanimous bipartisan approval for the measure by a Senate committee. A day earlier, SB 251 won unanimous bipartisan approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee. It now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

*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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