



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 (June 3, 2015) – A bill co-sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California and the California Chamber of Commerce that would encourage businesses to take proactive steps to improve access for people with disabilities was unanimously approved by the state Senate today.

SB 251, authored by Sen. Richard Roth (D-Riverside), will give merchants a short window of protection from disability access litigation if they take steps to have their businesses inspected by a state-approved Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) and then correct any access violations within 90 days of the inspection. The bill also includes a provision giving business owners 15 days to correct certain violations relating to parking lot striping and signage, without penalty.

“This is a positive step toward the goal of access for all,” said CAOC President Brian Chase. “Sen. Roth’s bill provides the answer for a pair of longtime problems – too many inaccessible businesses and too many merchants troubled by what they consider unmerited ADA lawsuits. SB 251 offers a common-sense solution: A window of opportunity to fix access problems and thus avoid legal challenge.”

The measure, which received unanimous bipartisan approvals at each step through the Senate, now goes to the California Assembly for consideration.

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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