



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC/CalChamber bill on disability access advances

Assembly Judiciary Committee approves on unanimous vote

SACRAMENTO (July 14, 2015) – A bill co-sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California and the California Chamber of Commerce intended to give owners of small businesses incentive to improve access for people with disabilities was approved by the state Assembly Judiciary Committee today with unanimous bipartisan support.

SB 251, authored by Sen. Richard Roth (D-Riverside), 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.

The bill also establishes that certain types of technical violations – such as the absence of signs or faded paint designating disabled parking spaces – are subject to statutory damages only if a business fails to fix the problem within 15 days and the plaintiff proves they experienced difficulty, discomfort or embarrassment.

In addition, SB 251 also provides a tax credit for some expenditures to improve access, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed.

SB 251 will be heard by the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation on Thursday, July 16.

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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