

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

2025

BILL SUMMARY

*A Comprehensive Breakdown of
Legislation Considered by the
Committee in 2025*

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November 2025

The counsel and staff of the Assembly Judiciary Committee have prepared this comprehensive report of bills considered by the Committee during the first year of the 2025-26 legislative session. As in past years, the Committee was responsible for one of the largest and most complex bill loads in the Legislature, encompassing virtually all areas of our civil justice and legal system. Some of the highlights of the session are described below. A more detailed summary of all bills referred to the Committee follows.

Courts, Civil Procedure and Practice, and Related Matters. *The Committee heard a wide variety of bills addressing the operation of California's courts and civil justice system this year. A few key areas of the Committee's focus included revising the jury selection procedures for civil trials and evaluating who can serve on juries. Additionally, building on a decade's worth of precedent from bills streamlining litigation surrounding the California Environmental Quality Act, the Committee heard almost a dozen bills seeking to provide expedited judicial review to litigation surrounding land use and housing disputes. Finally, as has been the norm since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee evaluated several measures related to the use of new technology in the courts.*

Civil and Constitutional Rights. *The Committee continues to hear bills implementing recommendations of the California Reparations Task Force and seeking to remedy past and ongoing wrongs committed against descendants of American slavery. While the Committee heard and passed six such measures, only two were signed by the Governor. The Governor vetoed measures that would have granted preferences to descendants in college admissions, granted preferences to descendants applying for home loan programs, expedited the applications of descendants seeking licenses from the Department of Consumer Affairs, and established a mechanism to compensate victims of racially motivated eminent domain. However, the Governor signed a measure that, pending funding, creates a Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery. The Governor also signed a measure that grants \$6 million to the California State University to develop methods for confirming an individual's status as a descendant of an enslaved person and report its findings to the Legislature.*

As usual, the Committee heard and passed measures that seek to protect civil rights and better enforce antidiscrimination laws. For example, the Committee heard, and the Governor eventually signed, a measure that requires the California Civil Rights Department to collect, publish, and transmit demographic information relative to ethnicity, race, gender, and the complainant, in order to better track patterns of discrimination. The Committee also passed, and the Governor signed, a measure that strengthens the rights of Native American high school students to wear traditional tribal regalia during graduation ceremonies.

Civil Liability and Immunity. *As always, the Committee heard many bills relating to liability and covering a diverse array of topics. This session, the Committee heard and approved bills imposing liability on*

online marketplaces for the sale of intoxicating hemp on their platforms; requiring operators of companion-chatbot platforms to clearly disclose when users might mistake a bot for a human and maintain and publish protocols that prevent suicidal or self-harm content, both of which were signed into law. The Committee also approved measures to strengthen the requirements (and civil penalties) on firearms industry members who fail to maintain “reasonable controls” over their inventories which was signed by the Governor. As usual, the Committee heard several measures seeking to use civil liability as a tool to combat climate change and protect the environment, including measures to strengthen the civil liability of polluters determined by the California Air Resources Board to have caused environmental harms and persons violating provisions of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, the Committee heard bills seeking to protect local agencies from civil liability while those local agencies maintained adherence with state-authorized environmental compliance plans.

After many past legislative efforts to reduce the artificially high standard of proof applicable to elder and dependent abuse cases when the defendant has engaged in spoliation of evidence that were passed by the Committee but failed elsewhere in the legislative process, such a measure finally reached the Governor’s desk and was signed into law. Finally, the Committee heard and passed a high-profile bill that requires developers of artificial intelligence (AI) models that are more powerful than a specified level and those providing the computing power to train such models to put appropriate safeguards and policies into place to prevent critical harms from their products. Unlike last year’s version, this version of the landmark AI bill was signed into law.

Family Law, Children, and Related Matters. The Committee heard various bills relating to marriage, family law, domestic violence, and the rights of minors. The Committee heard and approved a bill to grant state court jurisdiction over adoption proceedings--even if the child or parents are out of state--so long as the parties have specified ties to the state. Perhaps most controversially, the Committee heard and approved a bill developed to provide parents more resources to provide contingency plans for the care of their children in the event they are unable to do so themselves for a period of time. This bill – which has been signed into law-- expanded existing provisions establishing joint guardianships to allow any parent facing a potential absence to identify a joint guardian to care for their child and expanded the Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit to allow more family members to enroll a minor in school and authorize medical treatment for the child in the event that a parent is unavailable.

The Committee also heard, and the Governor signed, a measure relating to protective orders to expedite and facilitate issuance of such orders, including by (1) requiring, as of January 1, 2027, the electronic submission of documents at no charge to the petitioner and (2) requiring remote hearings to be held at no charge to the parties. The bill also allows service of a protective order preventing elder or dependent adult abuse to be made by means other than personal service in limited circumstances and clarifies that there shall be no fee for service by law enforcement of some protective orders preventing abuse and harassment.

Conservatorships and Mental Health. The topics of mental health and treatment for mental health conditions, whether voluntary or involuntary, continued to receive significant legislative attention this year. The Committee heard and the Governor signed bills that (1) require a county behavioral health director to include emergency physicians (EPs) as professionals who are eligible to be designated by the county to initiate involuntary detentions pursuant to Section 5150 of the Welfare & Institutions Code and provide such professionals with qualified immunity from civil and criminal liability for doing so; (2) amend the CARE Act to, among other things, expand the mental health criteria for a person to be eligible for participation in the CARE program.

Business and Consumer Protection, including Creditor-Debtor Relations. *The Committee's work in the business and consumer protection arena continued this year, focusing on how to modify California's consumer laws to apply in a marketplace increasingly shaped by AI, algorithmic pricing, and digital surveillance practices. An Assembly bill and a trio of Senate measures each targeted forms of algorithmic collusion and price manipulation. Collectively, these bills sought to prohibit the sale, licensing, or use of pricing algorithms that process competitors' nonpublic data to set prices, rents, or output levels, and to establish civil enforcement mechanisms modeled on California's Cartwright Act. Ultimately, the sole Assembly bill was the one bill that was signed into law.*

It was a relatively quiet year in the financial and creditor-debtor context. The most significant measure the Committee heard (that was signed into law) strengthened California's commercial financing disclosure regime by prohibiting deceptive use of terms like "interest" or "rate" and clarifying the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation's enforcement authority. More focus was placed on addressing financial and consumer protection issues stemming from the Los Angeles fires in January 2025. The Committee approved urgency measures to prohibit unsolicited purchases of real property in affected zip codes and provide temporary relief, in the form of mortgage forbearance, to borrowers financially impacted by the fires that were signed into law. The year's work reflects a modernized approach to consumer protection that treats algorithmic decision-making, digital surveillance, and automated pricing as central, rather than peripheral, concerns of economic justice. By extending established consumer-protection and fair-competition principles into these new technological domains, the Legislature continued to position California at the forefront of regulating the digital marketplace in the public interest.

Employee Rights. *The Committee heard many important measures this year designed to protect and enforce the rights of employees, including bills seeking to protect workers' privacy from their employers. One such bill would have regulated the types of tools that employers use to monitor employees and how they can use and retain information they obtain from such monitoring. Another bill would have imposed restrictions on when and where an employer could monitor employees while at work and required employers to allow workers to leave tracking devices and other surveillance tools at work while not on duty. Neither of these measures reached the Governor's desk, however.*

The Committee heard a number of bills bolstering workers' rights that were signed into law, including bills relating to liability between contractors and subcontractors for failure to pay workers' wages; clarifying and streamlining existing procedures for the Civil Rights Department's enforcement mechanisms; and establishing a new program to ensure construction trucking workers are not misclassified. The Committee also heard and approved a bill that was signed by the Governor to prohibit employment contracts or contract terms requiring a worker to assume a debt in the event their position is terminated, commonly referred to as a debt trap clause. Finally, the Committee approved a measure that was signed into law that modified the Equal Pay Act and the Pay Transparency Act in several ways, including by establishing a look-back period of ten years for claims under the Equal Pay Act.

Landlord-Tenant. *In the area of landlord-tenant law, the Committee reviewed and passed multiple bills aimed at enhancing protections for residential tenants and mobilehome owners who rent space in a mobilehome park. The Committee heard and the Governor signed measures that (1) permit tenants to assert a "Social Security hardship" defense in an unlawful detainer action if there is an interruption in federal social security payments; (2) require a landlord to return a security deposit by electronic means if*

payment is made by electronic means, if that is the tenant's preference; (3) require, except as specified, a rental unit to have a working stove and refrigerator in order to be deemed tenantable; (4) prohibit mobilehome park owners from preventing residents from installing cooling units; (5) prohibit a landlord from requiring a tenant to use a particular internet service provider; and (6) require the Judicial Council to create an unlawful detainer summons form in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean, and require their use if the landlord knows or should know that the tenant primarily speaks one of those languages.

However, not all measures heard and passed by the Committee fared as well. For example, several measures introduced in response to the devastating Southern California wildfires of January 2025 passed out of the Committee, but failed to become law. These included bills that that would have (1) imposed a rent freeze in areas affected by the fire; (2) modified, in areas affected by the fires, a provision in the Tenant Protection Act that exempts new construction; (3) provided additional protections to tenants and mobilehome owners displaced or otherwise adversely affected by the fires, and (4) required specified disclosures relating to repair or reconstruction of single family homes damaged or destroyed the fire. Another measure prompted by the fires, but not strictly limited to areas affected by the fires, would have permitted renters to allow a person at risk of homelessness to reside in the rental unit notwithstanding any contrary provision in the lease. Other renter protection bills that passed out of the Committee only to fail later in the process include measures that would have (1) required a landlord to make certain reasonable accommodations to victims of domestic violence; (2) required that a notice "to pay or quit" to give the tenant at least 14 days (instead of the current three days) to pay the amount due or vacate the premises; and (3) prohibited mobilehome park owners from closing or changing the use of a mobilehome park without taking specified steps, including offering residents, or another non-profit entity, the opportunity to purchase the park.

The following report contains a summary of each bill referred to the Committee, as well as helpful statistical data regarding the disposition of the bills assigned to the Committee in 2025. We hope that you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Merrilees". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "M".

*Alison Merrilees
Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee*

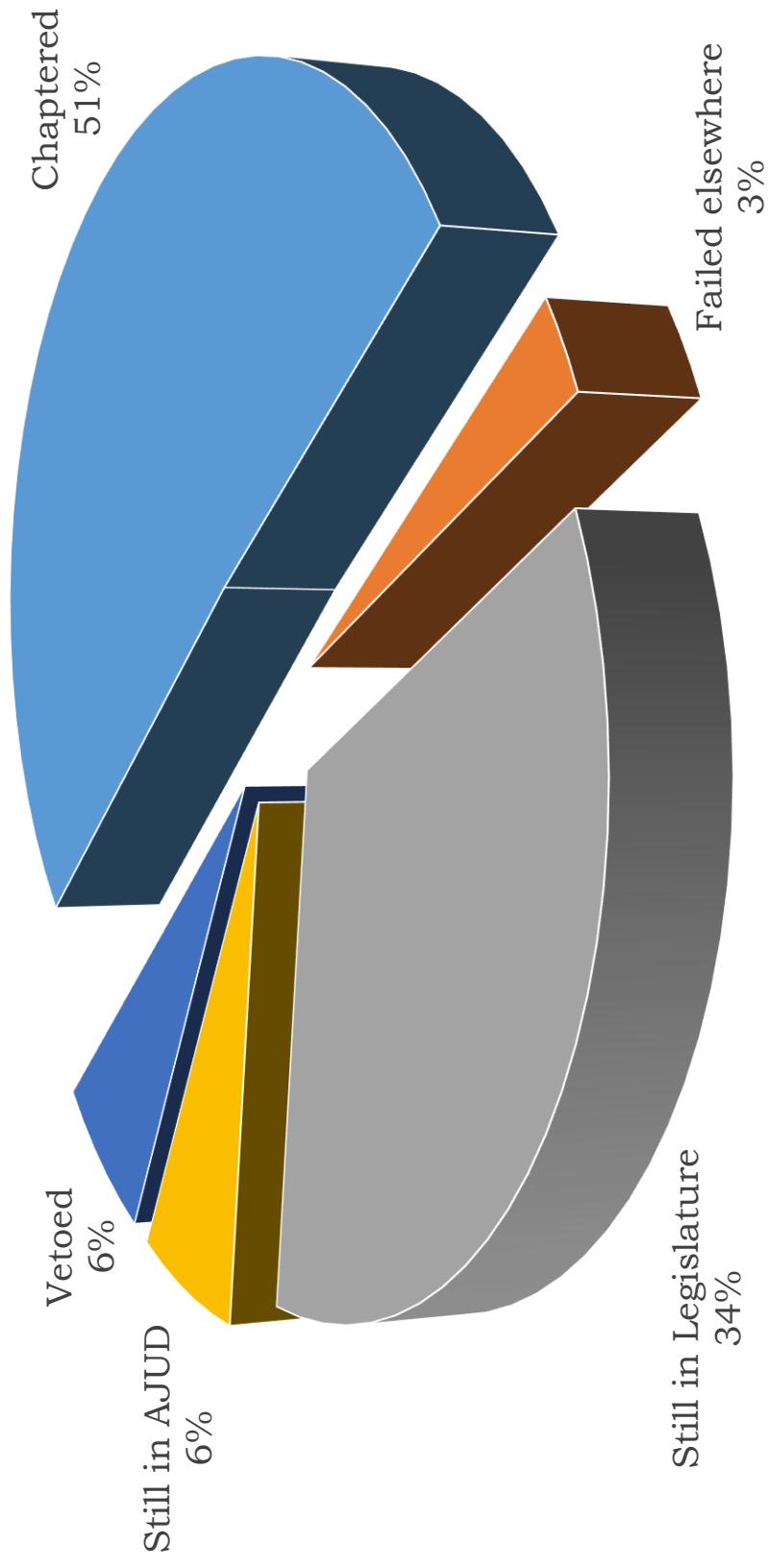
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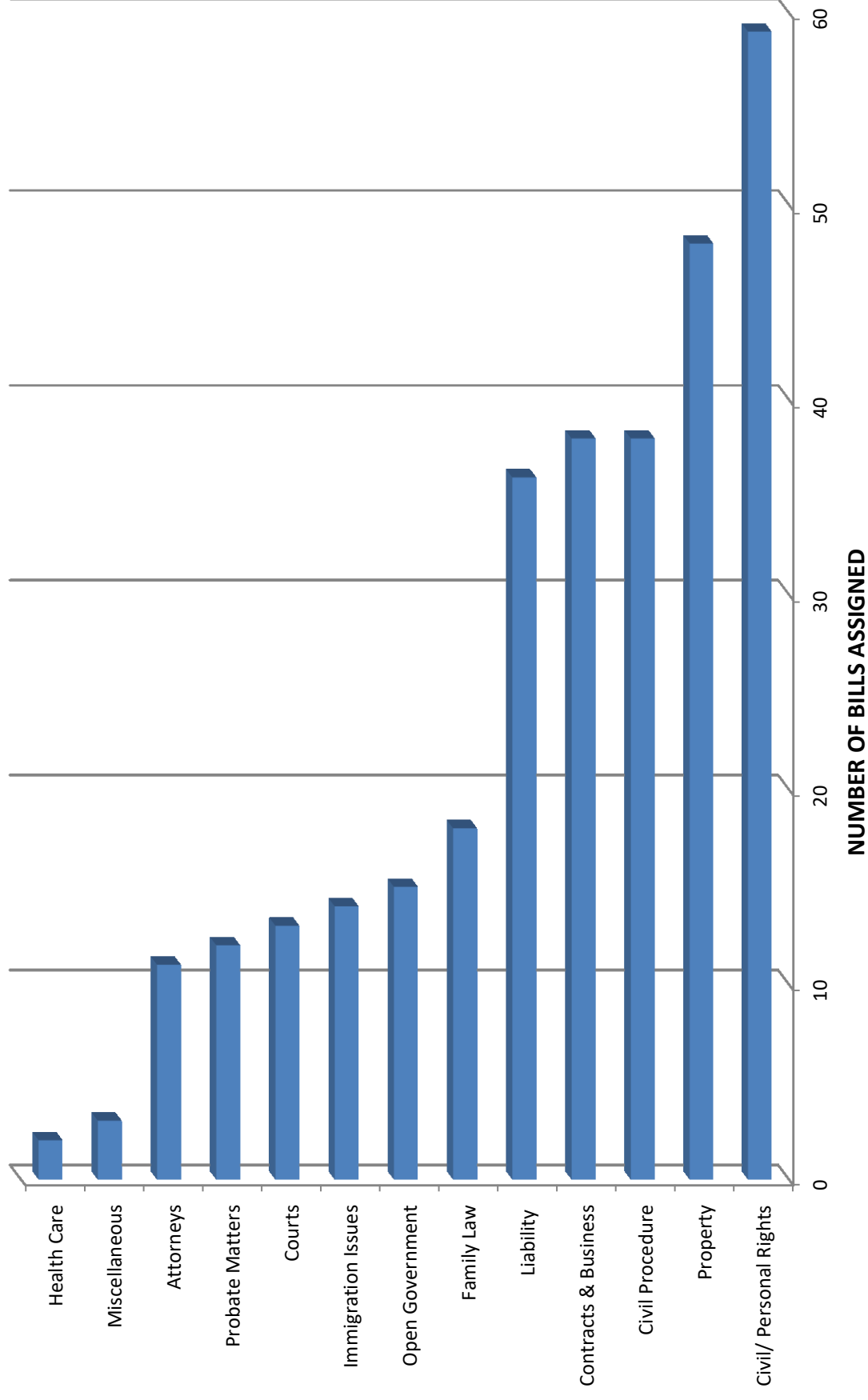
DISPOSITION OF BILLS ASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE IN 2025

ASSIGNED	Assembly: 195 Senate: 111 Total: 306	
CHAPTERED/ ADOPTED	Assembly: 82 Senate: 75 Total: 157	51%
STILL IN LEGISLATURE	Assembly: 82 Senate: 23 Total: 105	34%
STILL IN AJUD	Assembly: 16 Senate: 2 Total: 18	6%
FAILED IN AJUD	Assembly: 0 Senate: 1 Total: 0	0%
FAILED/ DIED ELSEWHERE	Assembly: 6 Senate: 2 Total: 8	3%
VETOED	Assembly: 9 Senate: 8 Total: 17	6%

**DISPOSITION OF BILLS ASSIGNED TO THE
ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IN 2025**



TYPES OF BILLS ASSIGNED TO THE ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IN 2025



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AB 1002 (Gabriel) Contractors: failure to pay wages: discipline: Attorney General enforcement. (See CIVIL, CONSTITUTIONAL, AND PERSONAL RIGHTS / *Employment Rights*)

SB 69 (McNerney) Artificial intelligence program: Attorney General. This bill would have required the Attorney General to establish and maintain an internal AI expertise program—designating a DOJ team for AI legal/policy issues, recruiting or training legal and technical staff, and collaborating with academia, civil rights groups, technical experts, and state agencies (e.g., CDT, GovOps). It also would have required a public annual report to the Legislature by July 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, covering the department’s AI activities, key legal/policy developments, and recommendations for additional state safeguards. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

ATTORNEYS AND RELATED MATTERS

Attorneys and Related Services

AB 715 (Zbur) Attorneys: discipline: sensitive services. As referred to this Committee, the bill would have clarified the disciplinary rules for attorneys providing advice related to sensitive services, and provided that a California attorney could not be disciplined for providing accurate legal advice about the provision of sensitive services in California. The bill was amended to address antisemitism protections in education prior to being heard in this Committee. Status: Chap. 428, Stats. 2025.

AB 931 (Kalra) State Bar Act: consumer legal funding. This bill limits California attorney’s ability to split fees with out-of-state law firms that adopt an “alternative business structure,” as defined, and adopts a regulatory framework in order to protect consumers seeking to obtain a loan via a legal funding agreement. Status: Chap. 565, Stats. 2025.

AB 1060 (Avila Farias) Local government: city attorneys: legal fee disclosures. This bill would have required all invoices for work by invoices for work by the city attorney, or by any other attorney who is seeking, or has sought, compensation from a city, to be made available, without redaction, to each member of the city council promptly upon that member’s request. Status: Asm Local Government.

AB 1155 (Fong) Law schools: externships: compensation. This bill requires, beginning August 1, 2026, each American Bar Association-accredited or California-accredit law school to allow law students to receive compensation from an externship while concurrently earning course credit. Status: Chap. 292, Stats. 2025.

AB 1522 (Committee on Judiciary) State Bar Act: expedited licensure: federal attorneys. This bill would have directed the State Bar of California to develop a program for expedited licensure of attorneys that previously worked in federal service and clarified the disciplinary rules for attorneys providing advice related to sensitive services. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 1525 (Committee on Judiciary) Attorneys: discipline: sensitive services. This bill provides that an excluded event related to the provision of legal advice regarding sensitive services that are legal under California law is not grounds for disciplinary action by the State Bar of California nor does it require an attorney or applicant to report that event to the State Bar. Status: Chap. 137, Stats. 2025.

SB 37 (Umberg) Attorneys: unlawful solicitations and advertisements. This bill strengthens the existing prohibitions on misleading attorney advertisements, attorney solicitations, and the use of referral services. Status: Chap. 645, Stats. 2025.

SB 550 (Cortese) California State University, San Jose: law school. This bill would have authorized the Trustees of the California State University to establish a six-year legal education pilot program consisting of CSU San Jose and a law school accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California that would have offered a variety of law-related educational programs to undergraduates. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

State Bar

AB 484 (Dixon) California bar examination. This bill requires the Committee of Bar Examiners State Bar of California to provide a report to the Supreme Court and Legislature regarding whether adopting a uniform bar examination would be more efficient to administer and lower the cost of administration for the State Bar and examinees. Status: Chap. 155, Stats. 2025.

SB 47 (Umberg) February 2025 bar exam: audit. This bill directs the California State Auditor to examine various aspects of the failed administration of the February 2025 California Bar Exam. Status: Chap. 209, Stats. 2025.

SB 253 (Umberg) State Bar of California. This bill provides the statutory authorization for the State Bar of California to collect the 2026 annual licensing fee from active and inactive licensees of the State Bar at the same levels as 2025, prohibits the Committee of Bar Examiners from being considered an advisory board, advisory commission, advisory committee, advisory subcommittee, or similar multimember advisory body, as specified, for purposes of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and makes modest reforms to the State Bar's certification of arbitration providers program. Status: Chap. 405, Stats. 2025.

CIVIL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Civil Procedure

AB 35 (Alvarez) California Environmental Quality Act: clean hydrogen transportation projects. This bill would have limited the review of an application for a discretionary permit or authorization for a clean hydrogen transportation project, as defined, and authorized expedited judicial review of any such project challenged under the California Environmental Quality Act. The bill was amended to remove the judicial review provisions within this Committee's jurisdiction while in the Natural Resources Cmte. Status: Asm Natural Resources.

AB 250 (Aguiar-Curry) Sexual assault: statute of limitations. This bill revives certain claims seeking damages for sexual assault, where the plaintiff also alleges that an entity engaged in a

cover up of the assault, so that such actions may proceed if already pending on January 1, 2026, or, if not filed by that date, commenced between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2027. The bill clarifies that the expanded window for bringing claims applies to actions against both the perpetrator and the entity that engaged in the cover-up. Status: Chap. 682, Stats. 2025.

AB 316 (Krell) Artificial intelligence: defenses. This bill prohibits a defendant who developed, modified, or used artificial intelligence that is alleged to have caused a harm to a plaintiff from asserting that the artificial intelligence autonomously caused the harm. The bill clarifies that a defendant is not limited or precluded from presenting any other affirmative defense, including evidence relevant to comparative fault, causation, or foreseeability. Status: Chap. 672, Stats. 2025.

AB 394 (Wilson) Public transportation providers. This bill clarifies that battery of a transit worker qualifies as “unlawful violence,” for the purposes of obtaining a workplace violence restraining order, thereby explicitly allowing all transit workers and their employers to obtain restraining orders that cover the workplace. Additionally, the bill authorizes a judge to issue a restraining order that covers the entirety of a transit system as appropriate on a case-by-case basis. Status: Chap. 147, Stats. 2025.

AB 464 (Aguiar-Curry) SOL for sex assault in prison. This bill would have tolled the statute of limitations for bringing a civil claim based upon a sexual assault perpetrated by a public employee while the survivor is incarcerated for the entire period when the survivor is incarcerated (plus an additional four years after the date of the survivor’s release). Status: Asm Appropriations.

AB 540 (Connolly) Motions: filing and service requirements. This bill would have eliminated the two-court day extension for responding to noticed motions served electronically, aligning California’s rules with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which eliminated similar extensions in 2016. The bill’s co-sponsors, Consumer Attorneys of California and California Defense Counsel, asserted that ambiguity surrounding the electronic service deadline extension has caused confusion and inefficiencies in civil litigation, and this bill would have resolved that ambiguity by eliminating the extension entirely. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 611 (Lee) Legacy local media outlets: notice to employees of sale or transfer: right of first refusal. This bill would have required a legacy local news organization to provide notice of intent to sell by the specified methods, including in written form to each employee, at least 120 days before the final execution of any transaction. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 614 (Lee) Claims against public entities. This bill would have expanded the period of time for presenting claims to a government entity for damages as a result of death or for injury to persons or to personal property or growing crops from six months to one year. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 632 (Hart) Local ordinances: administrative fines or penalties. This bill would have allowed a local agency, upon the exhaustion of administrative and judicial appeals and specified noticing procedures, to obtain a final judgment and imposed liens to enforce administrative fines

and penalties for violations of specified cannabis laws, housing laws, and fire hazard laws. Status: Vetoed.

AB 708 (Valencia) California Youth Football Act: safety equipment. This bill would have authorized a court to grant a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction to remedy a violation or threatened violation of the bill's requirement that a youth tackle football league allow participants to use specified safety equipment, and provided that a prevailing plaintiff would have been entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Status: Sen Appropriations.

AB 747 (Kalra) Service of Process Accountability, Reform and Equity (SPARE) Act. This bill strengthens procedural protections for defendants by increasing accountability for process servers, clarifying the standard for substituted service, requiring photographic documentation of service, and enhancing access to post-judgment relief when service was unlawful. It requires county clerks to maintain a public registry of process servers; codifies that "reasonable diligence" for substituted service means at least three good-faith attempts on different days and times, including one at the defendant's residence; and mandates GPS-stamped photographic proof of service, including the door of the residence or business served, unless safety concerns prevent it. The bill authorizes defendants to move to vacate default judgments at any time if service was improper, shifting the burden to plaintiffs to prove lawful service once a defendant rebuts the presumption of validity in a process server's return. These reforms modernize evidentiary standards, deter fraudulent "sewer service," and align California law with constitutional due process protections. Implementation is delayed until January 1, 2027. Status: Chap. 563, Stats. 2025.

AB 774 (Bauer-Kahan) Civil actions: enforcement of judgments. This bill clarifies and refines post-judgment enforcement procedures enacted under AB 2837 (Bauer-Kahan, 2024), the California Post-Judgment Fairness Act. It authorizes the use of legal pleadings for debtor address verification, extends the filing deadline for verification declarations from five to ten business days, and allows declarations to be signed by custodians of records or law firm staff. The bill confirms that ex parte applications to stay a levy or garnishment do not waive jurisdictional defenses, and clarifies that earnings withholding orders must be served on employers. Beginning July 1, 2026, it permits judgment creditors to reinstate released liens on real or personal property with their original priority, subject to detailed declarations, notice, and penalties for false statements. Status: Chap. 708, Stats. 2025.

AB 839 (Rubio) California Environmental Quality Act: expedited judicial review: sustainable aviation fuel projects. This bill would have authorized the Governor to certify three sustainable aviation fuel projects to be eligible for expedited judicial review as "infrastructure projects" thus requiring any challenge to the projects brought pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act to be adjudicated within 270 days, if feasible. Status: Sen Environmental Quality.

AB 859 (Macedo) Civil procedure: recovery of defense costs. This bill would have added an objection by demurrer to the list of dispositive motions in which a defendant or a cross-defendant in a civil proceeding under the Government Clams Act may recover defense costs. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 1079 (Avila Farias) Civil appeals: stay of enforcement. This bill provides that the perfecting of an appeal does not stay enforcement of an order in the trial court, in the absence of an order of the trial court providing otherwise, if the trial court finds that either a party's at-large method of election violates, or is likely to violate, the California Voting Rights Act of 2001; or a party's election district boundaries violate, or are likely to violate, the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023. Status: Chap. 178, Stats. 2025.

AB 1162 (Bonta) Challenges to housing and community-serving projects. This bill would have authorized community-serving projects, as defined, that are directly or substantially connected to an affordable housing project to avail themselves of the litigation bonding requirements imposed on vexatious plaintiffs that sue affordable housing projects under the California Environmental Quality Act. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 1222 (Bauer-Kahan) Public utilities: judicial review. This bill would have adopted a presumption that a final decision made by the California Public Utilities Commission is arbitrary and unlawful if the final decision substantially deviates from the proposed decision of an administrative law judge; and would have prohibited investor owned utilities from seeking to recover legal expenses from ratepayers. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 1297 (Stefani) Automatic temporary restraining orders. This bill expands the prohibitions incorporated into temporary restraining orders to prohibit all parties from allowing an insurance plan to lapse for nonpayment of premiums or failing to renew the insurance plan. Status: Chap. 48, Stats. 2025.

AB 1384 (Nguyen) Summary proceedings: obtaining possession of real property. This bill modifies the court's authority to set a hearing by permitting the court to order the hearing held on a later date upon the written stipulation of the parties, or upon good cause shown in the case of a residential or commercial tenancy. Specifies that the later date shall not exceed 10 court days after the first date set for a hearing on the motion in the case of a commercial tenancy. Status: Chap. 299, Stats. 2025.

AB 1413 (Papan) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater adjudication: procedure. This bill would have made numerous modifications to the judicial review provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act including: providing that a court's judgment substantially interferes with the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act if the judgment permits more total pumping from a basin annually or on average than a valid groundwater sustainability plan; permitting a court to establish a safe yield that exceeds the sustainable yield established in a valid groundwater sustainability plan under certain circumstances; requiring a groundwater sustainability agency to review its sustainable yield every seven years; and requiring that a validation action be filed within 180 days of the groundwater sustainability plan's adoption. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 1466 (Hart) Groundwater adjudication: procedure. This bill provides that in actions to adjudicate groundwater rights, allows a court to exempt or treat separately claimants who extract or divert minor quantities of water; requires additional disclosures from parties, and requires a court to request the groundwater sustainability agency provide a technical report that quantifies

and describes the groundwater uses of parties that have not otherwise appeared before the court. Status: Chap. 643, Stats. 2025.

AB 1523 (Committee on Judiciary) Court-ordered mediation. This bill, commencing January 1, 2027, increases the amount in controversy limit for court ordered mediation in civil actions to \$75,000 and adopts procedural guidelines regarding when a matter can be referred to mediation. Status: Chap. 201, Stats. 2025.

SB 26 (Umberg) Civil actions: restitution for or replacement of a new motor vehicle. Offers auto manufacturers the ability to opt-in to streamlined litigation procedures adopted by AB 1755 (Kalra & Umberg) Chap. 938, Stats. 2024, which govern actions for restitution or replacement of defective motor vehicles. Status: Chap. 1, Stats. 2025.

SB 29 (Laird) Civil actions: decedent's cause of action. This bill would have extended the time frame for a decedent's personal representative or successor in interest in a "survivor's action" to recover damages for a decedent's pain, suffering, or disfigurement, until January 1, 2027. Similarly, the bill would have extended the requirement that a plaintiff who recovers such damages report specified information to the Judicial Council relating to damages recovered through July 31, 2026. Finally, the bill would have extended the time for Judicial Council to submit a report to the Legislature to January 1, 2027, covering the period from January 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 66 (Umberg) Civil discovery. This bill removes the January 1, 2027 sunset date from Code of Civil Procedure Section 2016.090, thereby making permanent a recently-enacted discovery framework that allows any party in most represented civil actions to demand early disclosures of key information—such as witnesses, relevant documents, and insurance coverage—within 60 days of such a demand. Status: Chap. 50, Stats. 2025.

SB 85 (Umberg) Civil actions: service of summons. This bill allows for alternative service of a summons in a civil case, including by email or other electronic technology, where the plaintiff is unable to effect service using prescribed methods, despite reasonable diligence. The bill does not apply to service in an action against a governmental entity or an agent or employee of a governmental entity. Status: Chap. 403, Stats. 2025.

SB 477 (Blakespear) FEHA: enforcement procedures. This bill makes various technical changes to the enforcement provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), including further tolling the time for a complainant to file a civil action if they submit a timely appeal, require the department to issue a right-to-sue after a group or class complaint is finally disposed of, make conforming changes to timelines related to issuance of a right-to-sue letter, and various other technical changes. Status: Chap. 321, Stats. 2025.

SB 611 (Richardson) Planning and zoning: community plans: review under the California Environmental Quality Act. This bill restores lapsed provisions of law that prohibited a court from stopping a development project solely on the grounds that the project was approved in a community plan that was subsequently rendered invalid for failure to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, as specified. Status: Chap. 228, Stats. 2025.

SB 650 (Cabaldon) The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. This bill Modifies the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 to include state and local public agencies as entities authorized to appeal a certification of consistency, and requires a legal challenge to the Delta Stewardship Council’s determination of an appeal regarding a proposed covered action to be brought as a writ of mandate within 90 days of the Council adopting its written findings. Status: Chap. 324, Stats. 2025.

SB 676 (Limon) California Environmental Quality Act: judicial streamlining: state of emergency: wildfire. This bill authorizes expedited judicial review of California Environmental Quality Act challenges to projects that maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed by wildfire. Status: Chap. 550, Stats. 2025.

SB 697 (Laird) Determination of water rights: stream system. This bill updates and streamlines the State Water Resources Control Board’s statutory adjudication process for determining stream system water rights. Status: Chap. 422, Stats. 2025.

SB 786 (Arreguin) Planning and zoning: general plan: judicial challenges. This bill streamlines the judicial review procedures for challenges to a local government’s general plan, housing element therein, and related zoning ordinances, including adopting expedited review timelines. Status: Chap. 526, Stats. 2025.

SB 808 (Caballero) Civil actions: writs: housing development projects. This bill provides for the expedited judicial review of writs of mandate filed as a result of the denial of a permit or other entitlement for housing development projects or residential units at the trial and appellate level. Status: Chap. 527, Stats. 2025.

SB 830 (Arreguin) California Environmental Quality Act: administrative and judicial streamlining benefits: hospital: City of Emeryville. This bill would have provided expedited judicial review for any California Environmental Quality Act challenges filed against a specified hospital construction project in the City of Emeryville. Status: Sen Inactive File.

Evidence

AB 793 (Schultz) Potentially dangerous and vicious dogs: designation and disposition: burden of proof. This bill would have revised the burden of proof for determinations about whether a dog is vicious from a preponderance of the evidence standard to a clear and convincing evidence standard. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 1109 (Kalra) Evidentiary privileges: union agent-represented worker privilege. This bill would have established a privilege between a union agent and a represented employee or represented former employee. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

SB 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas) Evidence: exclusions. This bill clarifies that an employee’s assessment, testing, admission, or acknowledgment of their own personal bias that was made in good faith and solicited as part of a bias mitigation training does not, standing on its own, constitute unlawful discrimination for purposes of a claim under the Fair Employment and Housing Act. Status: Chap. 216, Stats. 2025.

SB 459 (Grayson) Evidentiary privileges: peace officers: confidential communications: group peer support services. This bill expands existing protections for communications between law enforcement members and peer support services to include communications between personnel and peer support members made during group peer support services. Status: Chap. 456, Stats. 2025.

CONTRACTS, BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS

Antitrust

AB 325 (Aguiar-Curry) Cartwright act violations. This bill amends the Cartwright Act to prohibit the use or distribution of a “common pricing algorithm” as part of a contract, combination, or conspiracy to restrain trade, or where a person coerces others to adopt algorithm-recommended prices or commercial terms. A “common pricing algorithm” is defined as any technology used by two or more persons that relies on competitor data to recommend or influence prices or terms such as service levels, availability, or output. The bill clarifies that these provisions do not limit the applicability of existing antitrust laws and provides that complaints under the Act need only plausibly allege the existence of an unlawful agreement without excluding the possibility of independent action. Status: Chap. 338, Stats. 2025.

AB 1345 (Bauer-Kahan) Cartwright act. This bill would have amended the Cartwright Act to expressly prohibit unilateral restraints of trade and monopolization/monopsonization (including attempts, maintenance, and conspiracies). Status: Asm Judiciary.

SB 25 (Umberg) Uniform Antitrust Premerger Notification Act. This bill would have required parties that file a federal Hart-Scott-Rodino (HSR) premerger notification to also e-file the HSR form with the California Attorney General within one business day if they are headquartered in California or derive California sales of the deal’s goods/services of at least 20% of the HSR filing threshold. It set CPI-adjustable filing fees, preserved strict confidentiality, and authorized information-sharing with federal agencies and other states that adopt equivalent laws with comparable confidentiality. Noncompliance would have carried penalties up to \$10,000 per day. The act would have applied to HSR filings on or after January 1, 2026. Status: Asm Inactive File.

SB 52 (Pérez) Housing rental terms: algorithmic devices. This bill would have targeted “revenue-management” tools that inflate rents by prohibiting selling, licensing, or providing a rental-pricing algorithm with the intent or reasonable expectation that multiple landlords in the same market would use it, and would have barred landlords from adopting rental terms based on an algorithm they knew or should have known relied on nonpublic competitor data and was used by others in the market. It defined key terms and carved out public/aggregated data, MLS listings, and affordable-housing compliance tools. Enforcement would have been available to the Attorney General and local prosecutors (damages, restitution, injunctions, and civil penalties up to \$1,000 per violation, with fees), and harmed tenants would have had a private right of action with fee-shifting. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 295 (Hurtado) California Preventing Algorithmic Collusion Act. This bill would have prohibited distributing pricing algorithms—or making recommendations from them—to two or

more competitors when the algorithm processes competitors' confidential, nonpublic data, and barred businesses from using such algorithmic recommendations to set prices or other commercial terms when they know or should know the tool uses competitor data and is used by competitors in the same market. It defined key terms (e.g., "pricing algorithm," "competitor data," and "commercial term"), provided an affirmative defense for companies that exercised reasonable due diligence (such as obtaining written assurances the tool does not process competitor data), and exempted uses where all competitor data is more than one year old. Public enforcers (AG, DAs, county counsel, city attorneys) could seek restitution, injunctive relief, fees, punitive damages, and civil penalties up to \$25,000 per violation. Status: Failed, Asm Floor.

SB 384 (Wahab) Price-Setting Algorithm. This bill would have prohibited selling, licensing, providing, or using price-setting algorithms that process competitors' nonpublic data to set prices/supply levels for goods or services or rents/occupancy for rentals when intended or reasonably expected for use by two or more competitors in the same market. It would have provided an affirmative defense for users who exercised reasonable due diligence (e.g., written assurances the tool does not process nonpublic data) and authorized public enforcement (AG, DAs, city attorneys, county counsel) for damages, injunctions, restitution, and civil penalties up to \$1,000 per violation, with fees and costs to prevailing enforcers. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 763 (Hurtado) Conspiracy against trade: punishment. This bill permits public prosecutors to seek up to \$1 million in civil penalties for a violation of the Cartwright Act, and increases the cap on criminal penalties for a corporation from \$1 million to \$6 million. Status: Chap. 426, Stats. 2025.

Business and Consumer Protection

AB 56 (Bauer-Kahan) Social media: warning labels. This bill enacts the Social Media Warning Law, requiring covered social media platforms to display a "black box" Surgeon General warning about mental health harms associated with social media use. Platforms must show the warning for at least 10 seconds upon a minor's first daily access and for at least 30 seconds after three hours of cumulative daily use, and once per hour thereafter. The warning must cover 25% or 75% of the screen, depending on the context, and applies only to users reasonably determined to be 17 years of age or younger. The law does not create a private right of action and takes effect January 1, 2027. Status: Chap. 671, Stats. 2025.

AB 446 (Ward) Surveillance pricing. As heard in this Committee, this bill would have prohibited the practice of "surveillance pricing," whereby a business offers or sets a customized price for a good or service for a specific consumer or group of consumers based on personal or aggregate data collected through electronic surveillance technology. The bill was later narrowed to focus on grocery establishments, prohibiting them from engaging in "surveillance pricing," defined as charging customized price increases for goods or services based on personally identifiable information collected through surveillance technologies such as cameras, sensors, device tracking, or biometric monitoring. Exceptions would have applied for discounts based on disclosed eligibility criteria, loyalty or membership programs, or when consumers knowingly provided information to obtain a discount. Enforcement would have been limited to civil prosecution, with civil penalties up to \$12,500 per violation (and treble penalties for intentional

violations), though consumers would have been able to seek injunctive relief and attorney's fees. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 826 (J. Gonzalez) Veterans' benefits: protections. This bill would have prohibited a person or business from charging a fee to assist a veteran with the filing of a veterans' benefit claim unless they are accredited as required. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 853 (Wicks) California AI Transparency Act. This bill establishes new provenance and disclosure requirements for large online platforms, generative AI (GenAI) system hosting platforms, and capture device manufacturers. Beginning January 1, 2027, large online platforms must detect embedded provenance data compliant with widely adopted technical standards, disclose the availability of such data to users, and provide interfaces for users to inspect or download provenance data, including the name of the GenAI system or capture device, and any available digital signatures. Platforms are prohibited, where technically feasible, from stripping provenance data or digital signatures. GenAI hosting platforms may not make available systems that fail to provide required disclosures. Beginning January 1, 2028, capture device manufacturers must embed latent disclosures by default in content produced by new devices, including the manufacturer's name, device name and version, and the time and date of content creation or alteration, and must provide users with the option to include such disclosures. Status: Chap. 674, Stats. 2025.

AB 1197 (Calderon) Rental passenger vehicles. This bill modifies the conditions for invoking the presumption that a renter is not liable for the theft of a rental vehicle by requiring the renter to return the ignition key furnished by the rental company, rather than allowing the alternative showing that the key was not in the vehicle. The requirement to file a timely police report and cooperate remains unchanged from existing law, and the bill continues to treat the presumption as one affecting the burden of proof. The bill also expands the circumstances under which rental car companies may use geofence technology to recover unreturned or abandoned vehicles. Status: Chap. 449, Stats. 2025.

AB 1245 (Stefani, Lowenthal) California Restaurant Reservation Anti-Piracy Act. This bill would have prohibited a third-party restaurant reservation service from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for a food service establishment through the website or other platform of the third-party service without a written agreement. Status: Asm Privacy and Consumer Protection.

AB 1291 (Lee) Ticket sellers: permanent business address: licensure. This bill would have required ticket sellers to immediately provide electronic proof of purchase and required venue operators to honor legitimate, linked, unused proofs of purchase for entry when a consumer cannot access their ticket. Public prosecutors could enforce with civil penalties up to \$2,500 per violation (each ticket/denial a separate violation) plus costs and attorney's fees. This bill was triple referred to Arts, Privacy, and Judiciary. After amendments taken in Privacy, this Committee waived hearing. Status: Asm Appropriations.

AB 1349 (Bryan) Consumer protection: ticket sellers. This bill would have strengthened consumer protections in the live event ticketing market by prohibiting speculative ticket sales (requiring actual or constructive possession or a contractual right) and mandating seat-location

disclosure, with narrow exceptions. It would have required registration/licensing of original sellers, resellers, and resale marketplaces as locally applicable and imposed marketplace duties to verify sellable tickets and disclose seat details. It would have barred deceptive practices (look-alike websites, false “sold out” claims) and bot/circumvention tactics (queue bypasses, multi-account/IP schemes, over-limit purchases). It also would have expanded refund rights and enhanced public enforcement (AG/local prosecutors only) with penalties up to \$10,000 per violation plus fees and costs. Status: Asm Appropriations.

AB 1427 (Calderon) Consumer credit report: sale of property: wildfires. (See PROPERTY AND RELATED MATTERS / *Real Property*)

SB 11 (Ashby) Artificial Intelligence Technology. This bill requires sellers of AI tools that enable a user to create digital replicas to provide a consumer warning about potential legal liability for unlawful use, clarifies that realistic digital replicas may violate a person’s right of publicity, directs the Judicial Council to address AI-generated evidence in court proceedings, and clarifies that the use of a digital replica to impersonate another qualifies as “false impersonation.” Status: Vetoed.

SB 36 (Umberg) Price gouging: state of emergency. This bill would have strengthened consumer protections against price gouging during states of emergency by enhancing civil remedies under the Unfair Competition Law and Consumer Legal Remedies Act, extending protections to displaced persons, imposing obligations on housing listing platforms, and expanding investigatory tools for enforcement. Status: Vetoed.

SB 53 (Wiener) CalCompute: foundation models: whistleblowers. This bill requires large artificial intelligence (AI) developers, as defined, to publish safety frameworks, disclose specified transparency reports, and report critical safety incidents to the Office of Emergency Services (OES), as specified. Additionally, the bill creates whistleblower protections for employees reporting AI safety violations and establishes a consortium to design a framework for “CalCompute,” a public cloud platform to expand safe and equitable AI research. Status: Chap. 138, Stats. 2025.

SB 236 (Weber Pierson) Cosmetics: chemical hair relaxers. This bill, known as the Combating Unsafe Relaxers (C.U.R.L.) Act, creates compliance mechanisms within the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) for the prohibition of specified chemicals in hair relaxer products and establishes the C.U.R.L. Act Fund. Status: Chap. 598, Stats. 2025.

SB 259 (Wahab) Fair Online Pricing Act. This bill would have barred businesses from generating prices shown on a consumer’s online device based on the device’s hardware or hardware state, installed software, or geolocation when used to infer consumer traits. It would have allowed device data only for repair/maintenance or trade-in valuations, and permitted geolocation to reflect real-time demand for immediate services and legitimate location-based cost or tax differences. Status: Asm Inactive File.

SB 446 (Hurtado) Data breaches: customer notification. This bill requires a qualifying individual or business that experiences a breach of the security of a system that includes personal information to disclose the breach within 30 days to California residents whose personal

information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person. The bill also establishes that if the breach affected more than 500 California residents, the individual or business must also provide a copy of the breach disclosure to the Attorney General within 15 calendar days of notifying affected consumers of the breach. Status: Chap. 319, Stats. 2025.

SB 694 (Archuleta) Deceptive practices: service members and veterans. This bill would have modified the Consumers Legal Remedies Act to prohibit any person from charging an unreasonable fee to prepare, aid, or advise another person to apply for veterans benefits and expands the definition of “unreasonable fee” to include a fee charged with respect to federal veterans benefits that exceeds the amount that could be charged by an attorney or claims agent accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Status: Sen Rules.

SB 766 (Allen) CARS Act. This bill closely mirrors the Federal Trade Commission’s CARS Final Rule—vacated in early 2025 on procedural grounds by the Fifth Circuit—and seeks to codify comparable protections at the state level. The bill targets the most common forms of misconduct in auto transactions by prohibiting material misrepresentations about pricing, financing, trade-in obligations, and government affiliation; requiring clear and multilingual disclosures of the total price, financing terms, and optional add-ons; and banning the sale of add-ons that provide no benefit to the buyer. It also establishes a mandatory three-day right to cancel for most used vehicles priced at or below \$50,000, replacing the little-used, two-day cancellation option in existing law. To facilitate compliance and enforcement, this bill imposes recordkeeping obligations, mandates standardized cancellation disclosures, and requires prominent signage at the point of sale. Taken together, the bill seeks to create a uniform, enforceable framework that builds upon and strengthens existing consumer protection laws in the context of vehicle sales and leases. Status: Chap. 354, Stats. 2025.

SB 793 (Archuleta) Public safety: lighters: standards: prohibition. This bill prohibits the sale of counterfeit or otherwise unsafe lighters, as specified. Status: Chap. 235, Stats. 2025.

Contracts

AB 506 (Bennett) Contracts: sales of dogs and cats. This bill prohibits and renders void any contract for the sale of a dog or a cat that requires a nonrefundable deposit for the purchase of the animal. The bill requires a seller that collects a payment in violation of its provisions to refund the money to the purchaser within 30 days of receiving notice that the contract is void. Finally, the bill allows public prosecutors to bring claims to enforce against violations of its provisions. Status: Chap. 477, Stats. 2025.

AB 559 (Berman) Home improvement contracts: prohibited business practices. This bill would have added contracts to build accessory dwelling units on residentially zoned property to the definition of “home improvement,” in the Contractors State License Law, thus authorizing enforcement actions against the contractor by the Contractors State License Board. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 1327 (Aguiar-Curry) Home improvement and home solicitation: right to cancel contracts. This bill: 1) requires home improvement, home solicitation, and seminar sales

contracts to include, on the first page and in a typeface no smaller than the body text, the contractor's name, mailing address, and email address to which a Notice of Cancellation may be sent, along with a statement advising that cancellation may be submitted to that mailing or email address; 2) establishes that a Notice of Cancellation for home improvement, home solicitation, and seminar sales contracts may be sent via mail or email; and 3) requires the contract to include a telephone number consumers may call for assistance in completing the Notice of Cancellation. The bill also allows a buyer to file a complaint with the Contractors State License Board for relevant violations. Status: Chap. 348, Stats. 2025.

AB 1370 (Patterson) Political Reform Act of 1974: nondisclosure agreements. This bill prohibits a Member of the Legislature from entering into or requesting a nondisclosure agreement in connection with negotiations over legislation. Status: Chap. 191, Stats. 2025.

SB 61 (Cortese) Contracts for private works of improvement: retention payments. This bill limits the amount of a retention payment included in a contract for a private work of improvement that may be withheld by an owner from the direct contractor, by the direct contractor from any subcontractor, and by a subcontractor from any subcontractor, to no more than 5% of the payment. Status: Chap. 49, Stats. 2025.

SB 82 (Umberg) Contracts: consumer goods and services: dispute resolution provisions. This bill prohibits dispute resolution terms and conditions in consumer use agreements from extending beyond the use, payment, or provision of the good, service, money, or credit provided by the consumer use agreement. Status: Chap. 350, Stats. 2025.

SB 351 (Cabaldon) Health facilities: contracts. This bill prohibits a private equity group or hedge fund involved with a physician or dental practice, including as an investor, from interfering with the professional judgment of physicians or dentists in making health care decisions; prohibits a private equity group or hedge fund from entering into a contract or other agreement or arrangement with a physician or dental practice if the contract or other agreement or arrangement would enable the person or entity to engage in the prohibited actions described above; makes provisions of those contracts or other agreements that violate that prohibition void and unenforceable; and entitles the Attorney General to obtain injunctive relief for enforcing these provisions. Status: Chap. 409, Stats. 2025.

SB 440 (Ochoa Bogh) Contracts for private works of improvement: Private Works Construction Payment and Dispute. This bill establishes a claims resolution process applicable to claims by a contractor or subcontractor for contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2026. Status: Chap. 583, Stats. 2025.

SB 517 (Niello) Home improvement contract requirements: subcontractors. This bill requires home improvement contracts to disclose whether a subcontractor will be used on the project, and, if a subcontractor is to be used on the project, a notice informing consumers that the subcontractor's information may be provided to them upon request. Status: Chap. 585, Stats. 2025.

SB 784 (Durazo) Home improvement contracts: loans: right to cancel. This bill would have regulated home improvement loans and extended the period during which a consumer may

cancel a home improvement or solicitation contract. The bill would have required a lender, before a consumer executes a home improvement loan, to make certain disclosures to consumers in the manner specified and to establish oral confirmation that the consumer understands all terms of the contract. Status: Asm Appropriations.

Creditor-Debtor Relations

AB 866 (Ortega) Student loan servicing. This bill would have clarified that student loan servicers are “persons” under the Unfair Competition Law, and that student loans are “debts” arising from “consumer credit transactions” under the Rosenthal Act, thereby codifying existing enforcement practice and removing any doubt about the Legislature’s intent to subject student loan servicing activity to California’s core consumer protection laws. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 1473 (Essayli) Voidable transactions: remedies: choice of law. This bill would have amended the rules to determine a debtor’s location to include an individual’s principal domicile, in addition to just their residence. Status: Asm Judiciary.

SB 362 (Grayson) Commercial financing: disclosures. This bill prohibits a commercial financing provider from using certain terms, including “interest” and “rate,” in a deceptive manner and clarifies the enforcement authority provided to the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) for violations of the requirements. Status: Chap. 352, Stats. 2025.

SB 846 (McNerney) Liens: harvested crops: remedies. This bill removes the reference to “limited partnership” in the existing crop lien statute so that the lien is no longer limited to situations in which the harvested crops or farm products were owned, grown, or produced by a limited partnership. The bill thus makes it easier for the worker that harvested the crop to file a crop lien. Status: Chap. 57, Stats. 2025.

COURTS AND RELATED MATTERS

Courts

AB 515 (Pacheco) Trial: statement of decision. This bill makes several changes to the process by which a party may request a statement of decision from a superior court, including requiring a party to request for a statement of decision before the matter is submitted for decision, regardless of the length of the trial. Status: Chap. 559, Stats. 2025.

AB 1524 (Committee on Judiciary) Court fees. This bill allows, subject to specified conditions, the public to use their own equipment to copy court records. It also provides that in the absence of a statute or rule explicitly authorizing or prohibiting a fee by the superior court for a particular service or product, the court may only charge a fee not to exceed the cost to the court of providing the service or product; and requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature specific information about each fee charged by a superior court in specified fiscal years for which the revenue collected by and distributed to the court as a result of the fee exceeds the court's cost of providing the service or product. Status: Chap. 306, Stats. 2025.

SB 54 (Umberg) Court fee waivers: veterans. This bill provides that a veteran's disability service-connected compensation cannot be treated as part of a litigant's monthly income when establishing if a person qualifies for a waiver of court fees. Status: Chap. 646, Stats. 2025.

SB 59 (Wiener) Court records: change of name or gender and sex identifier. This bill requires, commencing July 1, 2026, all court records, including the index, register of actions, and any other case information available through court systems used to provide the public with electronic access to court records associated with a proceeding for a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both, be kept confidential. Status: Chap. 738, Stats. 2025.

SB 673 (Ochoa Bogh) Courthouse construction: filing fee surcharges. This bill extends the sunset date of the San Bernardino County Superior Court's authority to charge a surcharge on case filings to fund court construction. Status: Chap. 75, Stats. 2025.

Court Reporting and Recording

AB 711 (Chen) Civil actions: shorthand reporters. This bill requires that the meet and confer notices specify that the parties have met and conferred regarding the retention of a certified shorthand reporter for the hearing on the motion and specifies that the meet and confer may be done through electronic communications. Status: Chap. 711, Stats. 2025.

AB 882 (Papan) Electronic court reporting. This bill would have permitted a court to use electronic recording technology to create a verbatim record of a proceeding in most civil case types, when the court does not provide a reporter and the party who wishes a transcript to be prepared cannot afford to retain a reporter. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 1189 (Lackey) Court reporting: digital reporters and legal transcriptionists. This bill would have authorized the Court Reporters Board of California to certify to practice in California digital reporters and legal transcriptionists to record and transcribe proceedings presently requiring a certified court reporter. Status: Asm Judiciary.

Juries

AB 223 (Pacheco) Jury selection: acknowledgment and agreement. This bill modifies the acknowledgment and agreements obtained from a jury panel prior to the examination of prospective trial jurors assigned for voir dire and after the completion of selection of trial jurors to modernize and clarify the language. Status: Chap. 29, Stats. 2025.

AB 387 (Alanis) Juries: voir dire: probation officers. As heard by this Committee, this bill would have exempted sworn probation officers from serving as a juror in a criminal trial. The bill was subsequently amended to revise the Nevaeh Youth Sports Safety Act. Status: Sen Health.

AB 1277 (Essayli) Jury duty. This bill would have required the Judicial Council to make the report resulting from its pilot program to study the effect of increases in juror compensation and mileage reimbursement rates public. Status: Asm Judiciary.

SB 645 (Umberg) Juries: peremptory challenges. Exempts most civil cases from the modernized procedures for evaluating peremptory challenges currently utilized in all criminal matters. Status: Chap. 656, Stats. 2025.

Judges

AB 1073 (Avila Farias) Judicial officers: disqualification. This bill would have required, following reversal by the California Supreme Court and remand to a court of appeal for further proceedings, the presiding justice of the court of appeal to assign the case to a panel of three justices and to notify the parties of the assignment within 30 days of issuance of the remittitur to the court of appeal. The bill then would have authorized the party's prevailing at the Supreme Court to make a motion objecting to the appointment of any justice who rendered the decision previously overturned. Status: Asm Judiciary.

FAMILY LAW, CHILDREN AND RELATED MATTERS

Adoption

AB 329 (Castillo) California Healthy Youth Act: adoption. This bill would have modified the California Healthy Youth Act to require schools' discussion of adoption to include a comprehensive explanation of, and information on, the types of adoption, the rights of a placing birth parent, and specific local adoption resources and support. Status: Failed, Asm. Education.

SB 450 (Menjivar) Adoption: state court jurisdiction. This bill establishes the state court's jurisdiction to include adoption proceedings for California-born minors when 1) proceedings to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents is not required to make them available for adoption, and 2) the proceedings to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents to make the minor available for adoption is brought in this state. The bill also requires an adoption order issued for unmarried minors to include the names of the adoptive parent or parents and any existing parent or parents who will maintain their parental rights after the finalization of the adoption. Status: Chap. 757, Stats. 2025.

Children

AB 243 (Ahrens) Juveniles: case file inspection: postsecondary education: student financial aid. This bill authorizes inspection of a juvenile case file by personnel at institutions of higher education to facilitate the minor's attendance at the institution. The bill requires all information received by the personnel to be confidential and used for certain limited purposes, and would make an intentional violation of this confidentiality provision a misdemeanor. Status: Chap. 610, Stats. 2025.

AB 373 (Rubio) Dependency proceedings: counsel. This bill removes from existing law the exception that allows court-appointed counsel of a non-minor dependent to advocate for something other than the stated wishes of their adult client in a foster care proceeding, "when advocating for those wishes conflicts with the protection or safety of the nonminor dependent." As a result, court-appointed counsel of non-minor dependents are required to always represent the stated wishes of their clients in a client-directed manner. Status: Chap. 146, Stats. 2025.

AB 448 (Patel) Short-term residential therapeutic program: requirements. As referred to the Committee, this bill would have required, among other things, a short-term residential therapeutic program to ensure that a child or youth residing in the program facility was at all times able to make confidential telephone calls to their parent or legal guardian. The bill also would have subjected the short-term residential therapeutic program to civil penalties for violating those requirements. The bill was subsequently amended to focus on loan repayment by nondesignated hospitals, removing it from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 494 (Davies) Nonminor dependents: transfer of county of residence. This bill would have authorized the residence of a nonminor dependent to be changed to another county where the nonminor dependent were living if the nonminor dependent requested the transfer of jurisdiction to the new county and demonstrated an intent to remain in the new county by establishing a significant connection to the new county, as specified. The bill also would have required a court to issue orders within specified time periods. Status: Asm Human Services.

AB 651 (Bryan) Juveniles: dependency: incarcerated parent. This bill requires notice to, and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present at, specified dependency hearings related to their child, or the opportunity to participate in those proceedings by videoconference or teleconference when their physical presence is waived. Status: Chap. 274, Stats. 2025.

AB 926 (Gipson) Juvenile court: visitation. This bill would have made unsupervised visitation the default option for contact between a foster child and their parent or legal guardian. It would have placed the burden on the social worker assigned to the case, or the county child welfare agency more generally, to provide evidence that unsupervised visitations would endanger the child in a case where supervised visits were recommended. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 1201 (Jackson) Family reunification services. This bill would have required, in lieu of the current rule that a parent convicted of a felony is presumed to be ineligible to reunify with their child, a more individualized, holistic, and tailored examination of the parent's conviction so that the conviction alone would not have made the parent ineligible for reunification services. Status: Sen Human Services.

AB 1378 (Rogers) Child welfare services: prevention services: Indian tribes. This bill would have provided that agreements between the department and a tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization regarding the care and custody of Indian children and jurisdiction over Indian child custody proceedings include agreements to prevent foster care, and authorized agreements to be made for the sole purpose of administering prevention programs under the Family First Prevention Services program. Status: Vetoed.

SB 413 (Allen) Juveniles: case file inspection. This bill provides specified attorneys access to a juvenile case file without a court order for specified purposes. Specifically, it allows attorneys in a case involving the subject of a juvenile case file to view the case file without a court order; adds protections for information in a case file relating to individuals' immigration status; and limits access to information about minors who are not the subject of the case. Status: Chap. 221, Stats. 2025.

SB 452 (Weber Pierson) Child welfare services: prevention legal services. This bill would have required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish and implement the three year-long Family Advocacy Pilot Program to provide grants to qualified organizations that would provide legal services to vulnerable families with the goal of preventing petitions being filed in a juvenile court and reports being made to the county child welfare department. Status: Asm Human Services.

Child Custody and Visitation

AB 1375 (Hoover) Consideration when determining child custody: human trafficking. This bill requires, when making a determination of the best interests of a child, a court to consider any relevant, admissible evidence that a parent has caused human trafficking of the child or other parent. Status: Chap. 452, Stats. 2025.

AB 1449 (C. Rodriguez) Children: temporary custody. This bill would have decreased the amount of time prospective adoptive parent or parents have to file an adoption request with a court from 10 to 7 days when a peace officer takes a child into temporary custody who is in the hospital if the release of the child to the prospective adoptive parent or representative poses an immediate danger to the child's health or safety. Status: Asm Human Services.

Marriage

AB 1134 (Bains) Coerced marriage. This bill permits, beginning January 1, 2027, a court to extend, upon a showing of good cause, the time in which a party who was forced into a marriage can commence a proceeding to nullify the marriage; updates the crime of forced marriage to remove outdated sexist language; and makes the crime applicable to persons of all genders. Status: Chap. 633, Stats. 2025.

Domestic Violence

AB 561 (Quirk-Silva) Restraining orders. This bill makes various changes to the laws governing the issuance of protective orders that prevent abuse and harassment in order to expedite and facilitate issuance of such orders, including by requiring, as of January 1, 2027, the electronic submission of documents at no charge to the petitioner and remote hearings at no charge to the parties. The bill also allows service of a protective order preventing elder or dependent adult abuse to be made by means other than personal service in limited circumstances. Finally, the bill clarifies that there shall be no fee for service by law enforcement of specific protective orders preventing abuse and harassment. Status: Chap. 267, Stats. 2025.

AB 824 (Stefani) Protective orders: firearms and ammunition. This bill would have made a number of changes to existing law in order to facilitate the issuance of civil protective orders and the seizure of ammunition, as well as firearms, from persons who are subject to such orders. The bill would have required that (1) hearings on protective orders – whether to prevent civil harassment, elder and dependent abuse, domestic violence, or gun violence – are available to petitioners by remote means at no charge to the petitioner; (2) persons who are subject to these protective orders must relinquish all ammunition, as well as firearms at the time the orders are issued; and (3) law enforcement officers must seize ammunition in plain sight pursuant to a consensual or otherwise lawful search. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 1363 (Stefani) Protective orders: Wyland’s Law. This bill authorizes, subject to an appropriation, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish, or contract with a vendor to establish, an automated protected person information and notification system to provide a petitioner or protected person in a protective order case with automated access to information maintained in DOJ’s database about such protective orders. Status: Chap. 574, Stats. 2025.

HEALTH CARE

AB 408 (Berman) Physicians. (See OPEN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC RECORDS)

AB 980 (Arambula) Health care: medically necessary treatment. As referred to the Committee, this bill would have defined “medically necessary health care service” to mean legally prescribed medical care that is reasonable and comports with the medical community standard. The bill was later amended in a manner that removed it from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Asm Health.

SB 41 (Wiener) Pharmacy benefits. (See OPEN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC RECORDS)

SB 297 (Hurtado) Valley Fever Screening Prevention Act of 2025. (See LIABILITY AND RELATED MATTERS / *Immunity, Scope of Liability and Related Issues*)

SB 351 (Cabaldon) Health facilities. (See CONTRACTS, BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS / *Contracts*)

SB 418 (Menjivar) Health care coverage: nondiscrimination. Among other things, this bill would have prohibited a health care service plan or health insurer from taking specified actions relating to providing access to health programs and activities, including, but not limited to, denying or limiting health services to an individual based upon the individual’s sex assigned at birth, gender identity, or gender otherwise recorded. Status: Vetoed.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

AB 15 (Gipson) State government: immigration enforcement. As introduced and referred to the Committee, this bill would have prohibited the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from detaining on the basis of a hold request, providing an immigration authority with release date information, or responding to a notification request, transferring to an immigration authority, or facilitating or assisting with a transfer request any individual who is eligible for release and meets specified criteria. The bill was later amended to address a different topic - review and reinvestigation of open unsolved homicides – removing it from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Vetoed.

AB 49 (Muratsuchi) Schoolsites: entry requirements: immigration enforcement. This bill implements a number of protections for immigrant children in schools. First, it prohibits school officials and employees from allowing an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area of a schoolsite without providing a warrant, subpoena, or court order. The bill also prohibits a local educational agency and its personnel from disclosing education records of or any information about a student or their family without their parents’ or guardians’ consent or warrant, subpoena, or court order. Finally, the bill requires

the Attorney General to update existing model policies to align with the bill's provisions. Status: Chap. 122, Stats. 2025.

AB 324 (Sanchez) CA Values Act: exception. This bill would have expanded the exceptions to the California Values Act to include any California law enforcement agency performing any responsibilities under the scope of its jurisdiction regarding any person who is alleged to have committed certain crimes related to sex trafficking. Status: Dead, Asm Public Safety.

AB 419 (Connolly) Educational equity: immigration enforcement. This bill requires local educational agencies to post information related to immigration enforcement in their administrative buildings and on their websites, and at each schoolsite. Status: Chap. 663, Stats. 2025.

AB 421 (Solache) Immigration enforcement: prohibitions on access, sharing information, and law enforcement collaboration. This bill would have prohibited California law enforcement agencies from collaborating with, or providing any information in any manner, to immigration authorities about potential or current immigration enforcement actions if the action could or is taking place within a one-mile radius of any childcare or daycare facility, religious institution, place of worship, hospital, or medical office. Status: Asm Public Safety.

AB 1066 (Castillo) Immigration services: grants. This bill would have prohibited state funds from being used to obstruct or interfere with federal enforcement actions or legal proceedings against individuals convicted of a felony who are present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws. Status: Failed, Asm. Human Services.

AB 1261 (Bonta) Unaccompanied minors: right to counsel. This bill requires the state to provide legal counsel to every immigrant youth in the state, and authorizes the Department of Social Services to contract with authorized nonprofit organizations and county offices of the public defender to provide such counsel. Status: Chap. 665, Stats. 2025.

AB 1300 (Caloza) State and local government: data protection: immigration. This bill would have prohibited state or local government agencies from collecting immigration-related personally identifiable information unless explicitly required by law. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AJR 17 (C. Rodriguez) Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929. This resolution stated the Legislature's support for H.R. 1511 and S. 2606. Status: Sen Judiciary.

SB 48 (Gonzalez) Immigration enforcement: schoolsites: prohibitions on access and sharing information. As referred to this Committee, this bill would have prohibited primary educational institutions, to the extent possible, from granting permission to an immigration authority to access the nonpublic areas of a schoolsite or make a student available for questioning by an immigration authority unless presented with a valid warrant or court order. The bill was subsequently amended to require the Office of Civil Rights to employ discrimination prevention coordinators, removing it from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Chap. 429, Stats. 2025.

SB 307 (Cervantes) Public postsecondary education: immigration enforcement. This bill requires the California State University system implement precautionary measures related to

immigrant students' ability to continue to access the university's educational resources. The bill also makes the same request of the University of California. Status: Chap. 668, Stats. 2025.

SB 580 (Durazo) AG: immigration enforcement policies. This bill requires the Attorney General, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to publish model policies relating to interacting with immigration enforcement, and publish recommendations relating to databases operated by state and local agencies, and requires state and local agencies to implement the model policies on or before January 1, 2027. Status: Chap. 670, Stats. 2025.

SB 841 (Rubio) Immigration enforcement. This bill would have enacted the Keep Safe Spaces Safe Act and would have prohibited, to the extent possible, employees at various sensitive locations from allowing access to the nonpublic areas of those facilities, except as required by law or pursuant to a warrant or court order, for purposes of immigration enforcement. Status: Asm Inactive File.

SJR 8 (Arreguin) Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929. This resolution stated the Legislature's support for H.R. 1511 and S. 2606. Status: Asm Judiciary.

LIABILITY AND RELATED MATTERS

Damages and Civil Penalties

AB 2 (Lowenthal) Injuries to children: civil penalties. This bill would have specified civil penalties available in negligence claims brought against social media platforms for harm caused to a minor by the platform. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 78 (Chen) Attorney's fees: book accounts. Under existing law, reasonable attorney's fees may be recovered in actions on book accounts where the contract does not provide for such fees. These fees are currently capped at \$960 for debts owed by natural persons for personal, family, or household purposes; and \$1,200 for all other book accounts, or 25% of the principal obligation, whichever is lower. These caps were last adjusted in 2015. This bill increase the statutory caps to \$1,200 and \$1,600, respectively, to account for inflation and rising litigation costs. The bill does not modify the existing 25% limitation on the principal obligation or alter judicial discretion in awarding reasonable fees. Status: Chap. 28, Stats. 2025.

AB 290 (Bauer-Kahan) Emergency services and care. As referred to this Committee, this bill would have imposed civil penalties on hospitals found by the Department of Public Health to have violated provisions of law regarding the provision of emergency services. The bill was subsequently amended out of this Committee's jurisdiction to focus on the California FAIR Plan. Status: Chap. 475, Stats. 2025.

AB 426 (Dixon) Civil penalty for impeding emergency response with a drone. This bill would have prohibited a person from operating an unmanned aerial vehicle, remote piloted aircraft, or drone at the scene of an emergency that impedes emergency response teams in the performance of their duties. This bill would have authorized public prosecutors to bring a civil claim to enforce against a violation and authorized them to recover civil penalties. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 521 (Carrillo) Legal fees and costs: Contractors State License Board: bond deposits: liability for legal fees and costs. This bill specifies that the Contractors State License Board is not responsible for any legal fees or costs accrued by a claimant in a civil action against a deposit in lieu of bond while a court determines whether payment should be made against the deposit. Status: Chap. 265, Stats. 2025.

AB 712 (Wicks) Housing reform laws: enforcement actions: fines and penalties. This bill entitles housing development applicants that prevail in an action over a local agency to reasonable attorney's fees, and subjects local agencies to increased fines for violating housing reform laws under specified circumstances. Status: Chap. 496, Stats. 2025.

AB 750 (Quirk-Silva) Homeless shelters: safety regulations. This bill would have required cities and counties to perform annual inspections on homeless shelters and given the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) more enforcement authority, including the authority to bring civil actions to enforce the bill's requirements. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 820 (Pellerin) Homelessness: transport. This bill would have prohibited an employee of a local government or law enforcement agency, when acting in their official capacity, from transporting and dropping off, or arranging for or funding the transport and drop off, a homeless individual within a jurisdiction, unless the employee first coordinated shelter or long-term housing for the homeless individual. It would have made a local government or law enforcement agency liable for a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each violation. Status: Asm Housing & Community Development.

AB 928 (Rogers) Roosters: restrictions. This bill would have prohibited individuals from keeping more than 25 roosters that are movement constrained and makes someone who violates the prohibition liable for a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 per violation. Status: Sen Agriculture.

AB 973 (Hoover) Recycling: plastic trash bags: plastic packaging and products. This bill would have repealed the existing Rigid Plastic Packaging Container recycling law and replaced the law with a new statutory scheme for incorporating postconsumer recycled materials into rigid and flexible packaging and adopted a modernized civil penalty structure. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan) Automated decision systems. This bill would have enacted the Automated Decisions Safety Act to regulate covered automated decision systems (ADS) used to make or facilitate consequential decisions. Developers would have been required to conduct and retain periodic impact assessments, begin independent third-party audits by 2030, provide deployers with use instructions and compliance documentation, designate compliance leads, and refrain from advertising capabilities not supported by assessments. Deployers would have been required, starting January 1, 2027, to give pre- and post-decision notices to affected individuals, disclose ADS use and key factors, provide avenues to correct data and appeal outcomes within defined timelines, maintain records, and designate compliance leads; high-impact or substantially modified uses would have triggered developer-level duties. The Attorney General and specified public enforcers could have sought injunctive and declaratory relief, fees, and civil penalties up to \$25,000 per violation; AG access to unredacted assessments would have been required, with trade-secret confidentiality. The measure included exemptions (e.g., cybersecurity, fraud

detection, and certain financial services). Separately, the bill would have amended the Unruh Civil Rights Act to clarify that a party's compliance with the bill is relevant but not conclusive to liability under Unruh and that noncompliance alone does not create a presumption of unlawful intent. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 1064 (Bauer-Kahan) Leading Ethical AI Development (LEAD) for Kids Act. As heard by the Committee, this bill would have established a risk-based regulatory framework for artificial intelligence systems used by or on children, prohibiting the most harmful applications, requiring transparency, assessments, and audits for high-risk systems, and creating a public oversight board to enforce safety, privacy, and accountability standards. The bill was later amended to regulate only "companion chatbots"—GenAI systems that simulate sustained, personalized, emotion-based relationships with users. The bill would prohibit an operator from making a companion chatbot available to a child unless the system is not foreseeably capable of (1) encouraging self-harm, suicide, violence, illegal activity, disordered eating, or substance use; (2) offering mental-health therapy without direct professional supervision or discouraging help-seeking; (3) engaging in erotic or sexually explicit interactions; (4) prioritizing validation over factual accuracy or a child's safety; or (5) optimizing engagement in ways that override required safety guardrails. Before January 1, 2027, liability would turn on the operator's actual knowledge that a user is a child; beginning January 1, 2027, liability would turn on whether the operator has reasonably determined the user is not a child. The Attorney General could seek civil penalties of \$25,000 per violation, injunctive or declaratory relief, and attorney's fees; a harmed child (or parent/guardian) could bring a civil action for actual and punitive damages, fees, and equitable relief. Status: Vetoed.

AB 1065 (Ortega) Credit card transaction fees: tax payments: Consumer Inflation Reduction and Tax Fairness Act. This bill would have prohibited issuers, payment card networks, acquirer banks, and processors from charging interchange fees on the tax portion of an electronic payment transaction when the merchant transmits the tax amount during authorization or settlement; merchants that do not transmit the tax at that time would have been allowed to submit tax documentation within 180 days, triggering a required credit of the interchange charged on the tax within 30 days. The measure would have barred fee "workarounds" by increasing rates on the non-tax portion, disclaimed liability for networks regarding merchant-reported tax accuracy, and provided UCL enforcement for knowing patterns or practices of assessing interchange on tax. Status: Failed, Asm Banking and Finance.

AB 1127 (Gabriel) Firearms: converter attachments. Among other things, this bill expands the definition of "reasonable controls" that a firearms industry member must practice, to include "prevent[ing] the installation and use of a pistol converter" with a firearm. Under the bill, a court would have the authority to award the prevailing plaintiff any or all of the remedies available to a plaintiff under existing law, including damages, if a firearm industry member were determined to have failed to prevent the installation or use of a pistol converter in a firearm and the plaintiff were injured by such a firearm. Status: Chap. 572, Stats. 2025.

AB 1148 (Sharp-Collins) Food packaging: hazardous chemicals. This bill would have prohibited the intentional addition of bisphenols or ortho-phtalates to food packaging sold in California, and imposed civil penalties upon those found to have violated the prohibition. Status: Sen Environmental Quality.

AB 1159 (Addis) Student personal information. This bill would have modernized California’s student privacy laws by extending comparable protections to preschool/pre-K, and creating a Higher Education Student Information Protection Act, among other things. It would have restricted targeted ads, profiling, sales, and the use of student data to train GenAI (except for narrow educational purposes), added sensitive-data limits and deletion/retention rules, and created private rights of action with a notice-and-cure process. Status: Asm Privacy and Consumer Protection.

AB 1243 (Addis) Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025. This bill would have created the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 and required responsible parties, as determined by the California Environmental Protection Agency, to pay the state for all damages associated with climate harms accrued since January 1, 1990. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 1263 (Gipson) Firearms: ghost guns. Among other things, this bill imposes additional obligations and duties on firearm industry members under the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act with regard to firearm accessories and firearm manufacturing devices and establishes new civil penalties related to the unlawful manufacture of a firearm. Status: Chap. 636, Stats. 2025.

AB 1325 (M. Rodriguez) Lubricants and waste oil: producer responsibility. This bill would have repealed the California Oil Enhancement Program and replaced it with a Lubricant and Waste Oil Producer Responsibility Program, which would have established an expanded producer responsibility program for used oil and other automotive fluids. The bill would have adopted a civil penalty regime for violations of the Waste Oil Producer Responsibility Program. Status: Asm Natural Resources.

AB 1382 (Castillo) Animals: sale of pets: intentional genomic alterations. This bill would have prohibited the importation for profit, sales, or offering for sales a pet animal that has been modified or developed by intentional genomic alterations, as specified. The bill would have imposed civil penalties for a violation of the above provisions. Status: Asm Business and Professions.

SB 243 (Padilla) Companion Chatbots. This bill requires operators of companion-chatbot platforms to clearly disclose when users might mistake a bot for a human; maintain and publish protocols that prevent suicidal or self-harm content and refer users to crisis services; and, for known minors, disclose AI use, default to periodic (every three hours) reminders to take breaks and that the bot is not human, and block sexually explicit content or directions to engage in it. Beginning July 1, 2027, operators annually report to the Office of Suicide Prevention the number of crisis referrals and the protocols used to detect, remove, and prohibit suicidal-ideation responses. Operators are required to use evidence-based methods and warn that companion chatbots may not be suitable for some minors. The bill creates a private right of action for injunctive relief, the greater of actual damages or \$1,000 per violation, and attorney’s fees. Status: Chap. 677, Stats. 2025.

SB 378 (Wiener) Online marketplaces: illicit cannabis: reporting and liability. This bill places obligations on online marketplaces where advertising or sales of illicit cannabis or hemp products occur, including by requiring the marketplaces to have disclosures, reporting mechanisms, and warnings on their internet websites. This bill prohibits “unlawful paid online

advertising,” as defined, related to unlicensed sellers of cannabis or cannabis products, intoxicating hemp products, or unregistered hemp products and imposes robust civil penalties for violations of its requirements. Status: Chap. 411, Stats. 2025.

SB 420 (Padilla) Automated Decision Systems. This bill would have created a comprehensive framework for “high-risk” ADS—tools that materially affect access to education, jobs, utilities, housing, health care, lending, legal rights, or essential government services. Developers would have to complete impact assessments, share key statements with deployers, and keep assessments confidential when provided to state agencies. The Attorney General or Civil Rights Department could enforce via notices, injunctive relief, fees, and scaled penalties for missing assessments. Small entities (≤ 50 employees) and certain federally approved systems would be exempt; state contracts for high-risk ADS would require civil-rights compliance certifications. Status: Asm Privacy and Consumer Protection.

SB 771 (Stern) Personal rights: liability: social media platforms. This bill would have authorized civil penalties against large social media platforms that knowingly or recklessly contribute to violations of existing state civil rights laws through their algorithmic content delivery systems. Status: Vetoed.

Immunity, Scope of Liability and Related Issues

AB 365 (Schiavo) The Justin Kropp Safety Act: AED availability at worksites. This bill requires electric utilities, and their contractors and subcontractors, to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) available for emergency use at each worksite where two or more utility workers are performing work on electrical transmission and distribution lines above 601 volts and provides qualified immunity for acquiring and using such AEDs in emergency situations. Status: Chap. 361, Stats. 2025.

AB 369 (M. Rodriguez) Emergency services: liability. This bill encourages the administration of anti-seizure rescue medication by providing immunity to any unlicensed person who administers such medication. Status: Chap. 33, Stats. 2025.

AB 1037 (Elhawary) Public health: substance use disorder. The bill exempts a person who administers an opioid antagonist in good faith, whether or not they were trained, from liability for civil damages, as specified. It also provides qualified immunity to a health care provider who acts in good faith and with reasonable care to train a third party to administer the opioid antagonist for any injuries caused by such administration. Status: Chap. 569, Stats. 2025.

AB 1172 (Nguyen) Adult day programs: administration of inhalable emergency anti-seizure medication. This bill authorizes individuals with developmental disabilities to receive inhalable emergency antiseizure medication (antiseizure medication) from personnel on the premises of licensed adult day program facilities by creating a training pathway for employees of those facilities that choose to volunteer to administer the medication. This bill provides qualified immunity, subject to specific limitations, to volunteers who administer antiseizure medication. Status: Chap. 448, Stats. 2025.

AB 1488 (Flora) Self-defense. Among other things, this bill would have specified that there shall not be any civil liability on the part of, and no cause of action shall accrue against, a person

who uses force to protect from wrongful injury the person or property of oneself, or of a spouse, child, parent, or other relative, or member of one's family, or of a ward, servant, master, or guest. Status: Asm Public Safety.

SB 297 (Hurtado) Valley Fever Screening Prevention Act of 2025. This bill would have required an adult patient receiving primary care services in specified health care settings in high-incidence regions for valley fever to be offered valley fever screening and would have protected from disciplinary action and all civil or criminal liability, any health care provider who determined, based upon their professional judgement, that screening was not appropriate. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 394 (Allen) Water theft: fire hydrants. This bill authorizes a utility to commence a civil action to impose liability against a person who diverts water by tampering with a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check. Status: Chap. 540, Stats. 2025.

SB 414 (Ashby) School financial audits: chartering authority: tort liability. This bill would have modified oversight, auditing, and funding systems for "non-classroom-based" (NCB), and renames NCB charter schools to "flex-based" charter schools. The bill included a liability exemption for charter schools within the Government Claims Act. This provision was subsequently deleted from the bill, removing it from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Vetoed.

SB 466 (Caballero) Drinking water: primary standard for hexavalent chromium: exemption. This bill prohibits a public water system that is implementing a State Water Resources Control Board approved compliance plan to obtain a drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium from being held, considered or otherwise deemed in violation of the primary drinking water standard. Status: Chap. 320, Stats. 2025.

SB 577 (Laird) State Government. This bill would have limited the liability of Los Angeles County regarding specified childhood sexual assault claims, as well as revised several provisions of existing law related to burdens of proof and civil procedures governing claims for childhood sexual assault claims against public entities. The bill also would have modified the procedures for local agencies issuing specified public debt obligations. Status: Asm Inactive File.

SB 601 (Allen) Water: waste discharge. This bill would have preserved, in state law, the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act for nexus waters, as they existed before May 25, 2023. The bill would have also authorized the Attorney General, the State Water Resources Control Board, an applicable regional water board, or a district attorney, county counsel, or city attorney to enforce specified provisions of the Water Code related to nexus waters. Status: Asm Appropriations.

SB 839 (Laird) Oil spills: fishing: water closure: grants: liability. This bill modernizes the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act to, among other reforms, remove the liability protections for private pleasure boats that cause an oil spill. Status: Chap. 237, Stats. 2025.

CIVIL, CONSTITUTIONAL, AND PERSONAL RIGHTS

Civil/ Constitutional Rights

AB 7 (Bryan) Postsecondary education: admissions: descendants of enslaved persons. This bill would have permitted the California State University (CSU), the University of California (UC), independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions to consider providing a preference in admissions to an applicant who is a descendant of slavery, as defined, to the extent it does not conflict with federal law. Status: Vetoed.

AB 25 (DeMaio) California Voter ID and Election Integrity Act. Among other things, this bill would have repealed a provision in existing law that prohibits a local government from enacting or enforcing any charter provision, ordinance, or regulation requiring a person to present identification for the purpose of voting. Status: Failed, Asm Elections.

AB 57 (McKinnor) Home Purchase Program: descendants of enslaved persons. This bill would have required that at least 10% of funds available for the California Dream for All Program, administered by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA), be made available to qualifying applicants who are also descendants of formerly enslaved people once a certification process for the descendants of American slavery is created by the anticipated Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery. Status: Vetoed.

AB 62 (McKinnor) Eminent domain: racially motivated. This bill would have established procedures by which a person who lost property because of racially motivated eminent domain, as defined, may apply to the Civil Rights Division (CRD) for the return of the property, if available, other public property of equal value, or financial compensation. Status: Vetoed.

AB 282 (Pellerin) Discrimination: housing: source of income. This bill would have provided that the establishment by a public agency or other entity of policies or preferences in favor of an applicant or tenant who qualifies for or participates in federal, state, or local housing subsidy programs, as specified, does not constitute discrimination based on source of income for purposes of the above-described provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 449 (Jackson) Civil Rights Department: antidiscrimination campaigns. This bill would have required the Civil Rights Department, subject to an appropriation of funds, to convene a working group and develop and implement media campaigns for the purpose of discouraging discrimination. Status: Vetoed.

AB 742 (Elhawary) Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing: descendants of enslaved persons. This bill would have required state licensing boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to expedite applications from individuals seeking licensure if the applicants are descendants of American slaves. Status: Vetoed.

AB 932 (Irwin) Community youth athletics programs: sex or gender discrimination. This bill extends existing gender discrimination prohibitions in youth sports to local educational agencies as it relates to accessing school and recreation facilities and resources. Status: Chap. 628, Stats. 2025.

AB 972 (Wilson) Postsecondary education: discrimination: sex. This bill would have modified the list of protected characteristics for purposes of discrimination in programs conducted by postsecondary educational institutions to include sex. Status: Sen Education.

AB 1098 (Fong) Postsecondary education: undergraduate and graduate students: pregnancy or pregnancy-related issues. As heard by this Committee, the bill would have expanded existing law to provide parity between pregnant undergraduate and graduate students by extending existing leave of absences to undergraduate students and requiring other reasonable accommodations. The bill was subsequently amended to establish the California Education Interagency Council (Council) to align education and workforce development policies and to address the changing nature of work and the economy. Status: Chap. 446, Stats. 2025.

AB 1369 (Ramos) Pupil rights: school graduation ceremonies: adornments. This bill clarifies the existing authorization for students to wear specified adornments at school graduation ceremonies by explicitly authorizing students and their families to determine what adornments are deemed to be traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance. The bill prohibits local educational agencies from requiring students to undergo a preapproval process in order to wear the adornment or requiring students to wear a graduation cap that is incompatible with the specified adornment. Status: Chap. 133, Stats. 2025.

ACA 7 (Jackson) Proposition 209. This proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, would have replaced the phrase “public education” with the phrase “higher education admissions and enrollment” for purposes of subdivision (a) of Section 31, of Article I of the California Constitution. This constitutional provision (commonly known as Proposition 209) prohibits state entities discriminating against, or giving preferential treatment to, any individual on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the areas of public employment, public contracting, or public education. Status: Asm Appropriations.

AJR 5 (Lee) Birthright citizenship. This resolution declared the Legislature’s opposition to President Trump’s Executive Order No. 14160 that sought to end birthright citizenship as established in the United States Constitution. The resolution also affirmed the Legislature’s commitment to birthright citizenship and lauded the importance of the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* (1868) 169 U.S. 649. Status: Res. Chap. 178, Stats. 2025.

AJR 18 (Ramos) Wrongdoings committed against California Native Americans. This resolution would call upon the California Legislature to acknowledge its culpability in the long record of violence, land theft, and other wrongs committed against California Native Americans. The resolution would commend and honor the resilience of indigenous Californians in resisting and surviving in the face of such hostility. Finally, the resolution calls upon the federal government to reaffirm and strengthen its collaboration with California tribes by recognizing tribal sovereignty, upholding treaty obligations, preserving cultural heritage, advancing economic opportunities, and ensuring equitable access to resources, healthcare, education, and environmental stewardship. Status: Sen Judiciary.

SB 437 (Weber Pierson) CSU: claim eligibility: genealogy and descendants of enslaved persons. This bill authorizes up to \$6 million of funds appropriated in the 2025 Budget Act for

purposes of enabling the California State University (CSU) to explore options to determine how to confirm an individual's status as a descendant of an enslaved person. The bill requires CSU to annually submit a report to the Legislature and Governor on pending and completed research projects, along with a final report that includes recommendations for statewide implementation. Status: Chap. 755, Stats. 2025.

SB 518 (Weber Pierson) Descendants of enslaved persons: reparations. This bill, contingent upon appropriation of sufficient funding by the Legislature, establishes the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery (Bureau) within state government, and establishes the Bureau's duties relating to determining an individual's status as a descendant. Status: Chap. 586, Stats. 2025.

SCR 66 (Umberg) Law Day. This resolution recognizes May 1 as "Law Day," to not only commemorate the importance that law plays in California, but to stand in solidarity with the legal community. The resolution makes findings and declarations about the history of Law Day and about the current U.S. President's alleged assaults on the rule of law. Status: Res. Chap. 150, Stats. 2025.

SJR 1 (Wiener) Rescinding previous applications for a federal constitutional convention. This resolution purports to rescind, nullify, and supersede all applications previously made by the California Legislature asking the United States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the United States Constitution. Status: Res. Chap. 174, Stats. 2025.

Disability Rights

AB 649 (Lowenthal) Disability access: construction-related accessibility claims. This bill would have created the Small Business Right to Cure Program, which allows businesses with 25 or fewer full-time employees to remediate within 120 days most construction-related accessibility violations on their premises for a period of six years after the business obtains a certified access specialist (CAsp) inspection of the premises after January 1, 2026 and corrects all violations that are noted in the CAsp report. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 780 (Castillo) Disability access: construction-related accessibility claims. This bill would have prohibited a construction-related accessibility claim for statutory damages from being initiated in a legal proceeding against a defendant who employs 50 or fewer individuals, unless the defendant had been served with a letter specifying each alleged violation, and the alleged violations were not corrected within 120 days of service of the letter. The bill would have provided that a defendant would not be liable for statutory damages, plaintiff's attorney's fees, or costs for an alleged violation that were corrected within 120 days of service of a letter alleging the violation. Status: Asm Judiciary.

SB 84 (Niello) Disability access: construction-related accessibility claims. This bill would have prohibited a construction-related accessibility claim for statutory damages from being initiated in a legal proceeding against a defendant who employs 50 or fewer individuals, unless the defendant had been served with a letter specifying each alleged violation, and the alleged violations were not corrected within 120 days of service of the letter. The bill would have provided that a defendant would not be liable for statutory damages, plaintiff's attorney's fees, or

costs for an alleged violation that were corrected within 120 days of service of a letter alleging the violation. Status: Asm Judiciary.

Personal Rights

AB 54 (Krell, Aguiar-Curry) Access to Safe Abortion Care Act. This bill would have prohibited a manufacturer, distributor, authorized health care provider, pharmacist, or individual from being subject to civil or criminal liability, or professional disciplinary action, for accessing, mailing, shipping, receiving, transporting, distributing, dispensing, or administering brand name or generic mifepristone or any drug used for medication abortion that is lawful under the laws of the state after January 1, 2020. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 67 (Bauer-Kahan) Attorney General: Reproductive Privacy Act: enforcement. This bill would have authorized the Attorney General to enforce the Reproductive Privacy Act. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 82 (Ward) Health care: legally protected health care activity. This bill expands safe haven protections against adverse action for aiding and assisting the access of legally protected health care activities in California, prohibits the reporting of testosterone and mifepristone to California's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and requires bail to be set at zero dollars for an individual who is arrested in connection with a proceeding in another state regarding the individual performing, supporting, or aiding in the performance of "a legally protected health care activity," as defined. Status: Chap. 679, Stats. 2025.

AB 302 (Bauer-Kahan) Confidentiality of Medical Information Act: out of state court orders. As referred to and heard by the Committee, this bill would have specified the types of court orders that mandate a provider of health care to release medical information in response to a court order. It also would have prohibited a provider of healthcare from selling a patient's medical information for marketing purposes, or disclosing medical information to a person or entity that is not engaged in providing direct health care services to the patient or the patient's provider of health care or health care service plan or insurer or self-insured employer, unless expressly authorized by the patient to do so. The bill later was amended to address the topic of data brokers and the sale of data about elected officials and judges and thus removed from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 392 (Dixon) Pornographic internet websites: consent. This bill would have required operators of pornographic internet websites to exercise ordinary care and reasonable diligence to prevent the display of sexually explicit content depicting individuals who did not consent to the making or uploading of the material or were minors at the time of creation. Uploaders would have been required to certify that depicted individuals were adults who consented, and to provide contact information, with operators obligated to retain this documentation for seven years and verify user email addresses. A depicted individual harmed by a violation would have been able to bring a civil action for damages, fees, and injunctive relief, while public prosecutors would have been authorized to seek civil penalties of \$25,000 per violation. Status: Held, Sen. Appropriations.

AB 621 (Bauer-Kahan) Deepfake pornography. This bill strengthens Civil Code Section 1708.86 by expanding liability for nonconsensual deepfake pornography. It extends liability to

aiders and abettors, including intermediaries such as hosting providers, payment processors, or content promoters who knowingly or recklessly facilitate the creation or dissemination of such content. It creates evidentiary presumptions to ease enforcement: operators of deepfake pornography services are presumed in violation if they cannot produce written consent, and service providers are presumed to have knowledge if they continue supporting services after receiving evidence of illegal activity. The bill also provides express standing for public prosecutors and authorizes enhanced remedies, including penalties of up to \$25,000 per violation—or \$50,000 if committed with malice—and recovery of attorney’s fees. It clarifies that disclaimers do not shield operators from liability, exempts passive internet service providers, and includes a savings clause to preserve consistency with the First Amendment and Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. Status: Chap. 673, Stats. 2025.

AB 935 (Ransom) State agencies: demographics. This bill requires the California Civil Rights Department to collect, publish, and transmit demographic information relative to ethnicity, race, gender, age, and other critical demographic information from complainants, as specified. Status: Chap. 717, Stats. 2025.

AB 1084 (Zbur) Change of name and gender and sex identifier. This bill, commencing July 1, 2026, streamlines the process for legally changing one’s name, including a change of name to match a person’s gender identity. Status: Chap. 723, Stats. 2025.

AB 1137 (Krell) Reporting mechanism: child sexual abuse material. This bill would have strengthened and clarified AB 1394 (Wicks, 2023), which established a first-in-the-nation statutory framework to require social media platforms to remove child sexual abuse material (CSAM) reported by victims and to impose civil liability on platforms that knowingly facilitated the commercial sexual exploitation of minors through harmful design choices. This bill (1) would have allowed any user—not just the depicted minor—to report CSAM; (2) required human review when automated systems fail to detect reported content; (3) enabled public enforcement when a reporting mechanism is inaccessible or nonfunctional; and (4) ensured that platforms claiming a liability safe harbor have conducted independent, third-party audits that are made public. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 1186 (Patel) Data collection: race and ethnicity: minimum categories. This bill would have required any state agency, board, or commission that directly or by contract collects demographic data on the ethnic origin, ethnicity, or race of Californians to collect data on at least the minimum categories of race and ethnicity. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 403 (Blakespear) End of Life Option Act: sunset. This bill repeals the January 1, 2031, expiration date of the End of Life Option Act, thereby extending the operation of the Act indefinitely. Status: Chap. 315, Stats. 2025.

SB 497 (Wiener) Legally protected health care activity. This bill enacts various safeguards against the enforcement within California of other states’ laws that purport to penalize individuals from obtaining gender-affirming care that is legal to obtain in California. Status: Chap. 764, Stats. 2025.

Privacy Rights

AB 45 (Bauer-Kahan) Privacy: health data: location and research. This bill prohibits the use of geofencing technology near healthcare facilities and expands protections for personally identifiable data collected within them to cover both patients and visitors. The bill also enhances research privacy protections by preventing the release of personally identifiable information if the subpoena is issued under a law that conflicts with California’s legal standards. Status: Chap. 134, Stats. 2025.

AB 1043 (Wicks) Age verification signals. This bill establishes an operating-system and app-store age-signal framework to help developers comply with youth protections. Operating system providers collect a user’s birth date/age from the account holder at setup and transmit a real-time API “age bracket” signal (under 13; 13–15; 16–17; 18+) to requesting applications, sending only the minimum data necessary and not sharing it beyond what the bill requires. Developers must request the signal at download/launch, are deemed to have actual knowledge of the user’s age range, must treat the signal as the primary indicator unless they possess clear and convincing internal information to the contrary, and may not seek or share more information than necessary. Legacy devices and apps must be brought into compliance by July 1, 2027. The bill provides for civil penalties and shields good-faith OS/app-store efforts from liability for erroneous signals or developer conduct. The bill includes antitrust and nondiscrimination safeguards (including parity for first-party apps), limits additional data collection, excludes broadband, telecom, and physical products, and disclaims liability for use by someone other than the signaled user. Delays implementation until January 1, 2027. Status: Chap. 675, Stats. 2025.

AB 1303 (Valencia) Communications: lifeline telephone service program. This bill prohibits the California Public Utilities Commission and providers and administrators of the California LifeLine program from sharing program applicant or subscriber information with local, state, or federal agencies without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant; prohibits the LifeLine program from requiring applicants and subscribers to provide social security numbers; and declares the LifeLine program a state law within the meaning of a specified federal law. Status: Chap. 347, Stats. 2025.

AB 1355 (Ward) Location privacy. This bill would have prohibited specified entities from collecting or processing location information of an individual user unless doing so is necessary to provide goods or services requested by that user and would have made an entity that violates the bill’s provisions liable for actual or statutory damages, and authorized public prosecutors to bring a claim to recover a civil penalty. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 50 (Ashby) Connected devices: survivor protections. This bill addresses tech-enabled abuse by letting survivors (or their designees) submit a “device protection request” to cut off an abuser’s access to connected devices or accounts. Specifically, this bill requires that within two business days of receiving a device protection request that the account manager for the device deny access to any person listed in the protection request. Status: Chap. 676, Stats. 2025.

SB 313 (Cervantes) Vital records: birth certificates. Requires the birthplace of each parent, beginning July 1, 2027, to be contained in the medical and social information section of the live birth certificate, which is confidential, rather than the publicly available section containing items

necessary to establish the fact of the birth. States that it is necessary to limit the public's right of access to this information in order to protect the privacy of persons with regard to information about the birthplace of their parents, except for access by authorized entities or individuals for health-related or other limited purposes. Status: Chap. 669, Stats. 2025.

SB 683 (Cortese) Privacy: use of a person's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness: injunctive relief. This bill clarifies that individuals whose identity is commercially exploited without consent may seek injunctive relief; and establishes a statutory timeline for compliance with a temporary restraining order. Status: Chap. 590, Stats. 2025.

Employment Rights

AB 427 (Jackson) Social workers: interstate compact. This bill would have ratified and approved the Social Work Licensure Compact. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 672 (Caloza) Public employment: notifications and right of intervention. This bill would have required plaintiffs who seek to prevent a public employee strike, petitioning a superior court for an injunction, to notify the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) of their petition. The bill authorized PERB to intervene in the plaintiffs' civil action in superior court, grant PERB the right to intervene in injunctive relief petitions involving trial court employees, and require the Judicial Council to adopt related rules. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 692 (Kalra) Employment: contracts in restraint of trade. This bill makes it unlawful to include in any employment contract, or to require a worker to execute as, a condition of employment, a contract that requires a worker to assume a debt if the employment is terminated, except as provided. The bill also specifies that such a contract is an unlawful contract in restraint of trade and provides for a private right of action. Status: Chap. 703, Stats. 2025.

AB 845 (Arambula) Office of the State Farmworker Ombudsperson. As referred to this Committee, this bill would have established the Office of the State Farmworker Ombudsperson. The bill would have required the Office to field and respond to complaints from agricultural employees, among other tasks. The bill was subsequently amended to require multiple agencies to collaborate to respond to employee complaints, removing it from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Chap. 624, Stats. 2025.

AB 1002 (Gabriel) Contractors: failure to pay wages: discipline: enforcement. This bill authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil claim and impose discipline on a contractor for failing to pay its workers appropriately or failing to fulfill a wage judgment. Status: Chap. 567, Stats. 2025.

AB 1221 (Bryan) Workplace surveillance tools. This bill would have prohibited the use of workplace surveillance tools in various contexts as well as an employer's use of worker data in specified ways. The bill would have required enforcement by the Labor Commissioner and authorized an employee to bring a civil action and recover civil penalties. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 1234 (Ortega) Employment: nonpayment of wages: complaints. This bill would have made changes to the process by which the Labor Commissioner investigates and adjudicates

employee complaints of wage theft, as specified, and authorized the Labor Commissioner to impose an administrative fee with any order, decision, or award, as specified. Status: Sen Inactive File.

AB 1331 (Elhawary) Workplace surveillance. This bill would have limited the use of workplace surveillance tools by employers in specified employee-only areas of a workplace or in employer-controlled off-site locations. The bill authorized the Labor Commissioner and public prosecutors to enforce its provisions through civil actions and recover civil penalties. Status: Sen Inactive File.

SB 7 (McNerney) Automated Decision Systems in the Workplace. This bill would have set baseline workplace AI guardrails: require plain-language notice and transparency (including data sources and quotas), give workers post-decision notice and access to ADS-used data, prohibit undisclosed or discriminatory uses and sole reliance on ADS for adverse actions (requiring human review), and bar retaliation. Enforcement would lie with the Labor Commissioner and public prosecutors (injunctive relief and a per-violation penalty), with coordination to CCPA rules. This bill was triple referred to Labor, Privacy, and Judiciary. After amendments taken in prior committees, the Committee waived hearing. Status: Vetoed.

SB 261 (Wahab) Division of Labor Standards Enforcement: orders, decisions, and awards. This bill imposes a civil penalty on an employer who has an outstanding order, decision, or award of up to three times the outstanding amount. Additionally, the bill requires a public prosecutor as an assignee of the judgment creditor to be awarded any court costs and reasonable fees for enforcing a judgment stemming from an ODA. Status: Chap. 747, Stats. 2025.

SB 294 (Reyes) The Workplace Know Your Rights Act. This bill establishes the Workplace Know Your Rights act which requires an employer, on specified dates and intervals, to provide written notice to employees of certain rights in the workplace, including workers' compensation benefits, rights related to immigration inspections and enforcement in the workplace, and the right to unionize. Status: Chap. 667, Stats. 2025.

SB 355 (Perez) Judgment debtor employers: EDD. This bill would have required, within 60 days of a final judgment being entered against an employer, a judgment debtor to provide documentation to the Labor Commissioner that the judgment is fully satisfied or other specified requirements have been met. In the event that the employer does not provide the required documentation, this bill made the employer liable for a civil penalty collected by the Labor Commissioner. Status: Vetoed.

SB 400 (Cortese) Labor: elective compensation under the Inflation Reduction Act. This bill authorizes, until January 1, 2029, a taxpayer, employer, contractor, or subcontractor to elects to make elective retroactive wage payments to workers who perform work on a qualified renewable clean energy facility pursuant to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 that is not a public works project. The bill clarifies that such a payment does not, by itself, constitute a violation of existing provisions of the Labor Code. Status: Chap. 220, Stats. 2025.

SB 464 (Smallwood-Cuevas) Employer pay data. This bill requires an employer to collect and store any demographic data gathered by an employer or labor contractor for the purpose of

submitting the pay data report separately from personnel records and, beginning January 1, 2027, also increases the number of job categories. Additionally, the bill authorizes a court to impose a civil penalty against an employer that fails to file the required report if requested by the Civil Rights Department. Status: Chap. 760, Stats. 2025.

SB 597 (Cortese) Labor-related liabilities: direct contractor and subcontractor. This bill revises and recasts existing provisions imposing joint liability on direct contractors and subcontractors for failure to pay workers at any level of contracting. Specifically, the bill makes the existing provisions relating to joint liability for unpaid fringe payments to more closely adhere to mechanics' lien statutes. Status: Chap. 774, Stats. 2025.

SB 642 (Limon) Employment: payment of wages. This bill makes various clarifying changes to the Equal Pay Act and Pay Transparency Act, including defining "pay scale" for purposes of job postings to mean the wage range an employer reasonably expects to pay the position upon hire. Additionally, the bill modifies the statute of limitations for the Equal Pay Act to be extended to three years. Finally, the bill authorizes plaintiffs who bring a claim under the Equal Pay Act to recover for an ongoing violation for a period of up to 10 years. Status: Chap. 468, Stats. 2025.

SB 648 (Smallwood-Cuevas) Employment: gratuities: enforcement. This bill authorizes the Labor Commissioner to investigate and issue a citation or file a civil action for gratuities owed to a worker. Status: Chap. 93, Stats. 2025.

SB 809 (Durazo) Employees and independent contractors: construction trucking. This bill establishes the Construction Trucking Employer Amnesty Program which would allow an eligible construction contractor to be relieved of liability for some statutory or civil penalties related to misclassification of workers if they complete a specified settlement agreement with the Labor Commissioner. Status: Chap. 659, Stats. 2025.

SB 847 (Reyes) Workers' compensation: uninsured employer: transfer of real property. This bill authorizes the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations to determine, according to the evidence available, whether a transfer of real property by an uninsured employer or a substantial shareholder was intended to retain a beneficial interest in the real property with a resulting trust for the benefit of such transferor. If such a determination is made, the bill requires the Director to record a certificate of lien attached to that resulting trust in the property. Status: Chap. 790, Stats. 2025.

OPEN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC RECORDS

AB 91 (Harabedian) State and local agencies: demographic data. This bill requires a state or local agency that directly or by contract collects demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use separate collection categories and tabulations for major Middle Eastern or North African groups, as specified. Status: Chap. 357, Stats. 2025.

AB 343 (Pacheco) Public Records Act: elected or appointed officials. This bill expands the definition of "elected or appointed official" under the California Public Records Act (CPRA) to include retired judges, court commissioners, federal judges, federal defenders, or judges of a federally recognized Indian tribe, active or retired State Bar Court judges, and appointees of a

court to serve as children's counsel in a family or dependency proceeding. Status: Chap 142, Stats. 2025.

AB 370 (Carrillo) California Public Records Act: cyberattacks. This bill adds an additional unusual circumstance under which the initial response time to a public records request may be extended by an agency for an additional 14 days to include the inability of the agency, because of a cyberattack, to access its electronic servers or systems in order to search for and obtain a record that the agency believes is responsive to a request and is maintained on the servers or systems in an electronic format. Status: Chap. 34, Stats. 2025.

AB 408 (Berman) Physicians. Among other things, this bill would have made records regarding the Physician Health and Wellness Program (Program) exempt from public disclosure, except as specified; and provided immunity from civil liability for the reporting of misconduct by a physician to the California Medical Board or Program. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 541 (DeMaio) California Public Records Act Ombudsperson. This bill would have established the Office of the California Public Records Act Ombudsperson and required the ombudsperson to investigate requests from the public for review of a state agency's denial of a request for the agency's public records; determine whether the denials complied with the California Public Records Act; and issue written opinions of its determinations. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 573 (Rogers) Cigarette and tobacco products: licensing and enforcement. This bill requires a tobacco retailer to pay a fee to cover the reasonable regulatory costs of the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration not to exceed \$600, for the issuance or renewal of a license to sell those tobacco products. As referred to this Committee this bill contained provisions limiting various disclosures under the California Public Records Act which were amended out of the bill prior to a hearing in this Committee. Status: Chap. 269, Stats. 2025.

AB 883 (Lowenthal) California Public Records Act: personal information of elected and appointed officials. This bill would have expanded the prohibition in existing law against publicly posting or publicly displaying protected information of an elected or appointed official if a written demand by the elected or appointed official, notwithstanding the fact that a federal district court previously held that the provision was unconstitutional. The bill would have expanded the law in two ways: (1) to also include a prohibition against selling the protected information; and (2) to expand the provisions relating to the written demand to also apply to a verifiable consumer request. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 1004 (Wallis) Tribal financial info: public records: exemption. This bill provides that any record provided by an Indian tribe to a public agency that contains financial information of the Indian tribe and is provided to the agency as a condition of, or requirement for, receiving financial assistance from the agency, is confidential, not a public record, and not open to public inspection. The bill requires each state or local agency agreement or contract with an Indian tribe related to financial assistance to contain a provision stating that any financial information disclosed pursuant to the agreement or contract shall remain confidential, shall not be a public record, and shall not be open to public inspection. Status: Chap. 132, Stats. 2025.

AB 1232 (Avila Farias) Administrative Procedure Act: proposed regulations: cost of living impact on residents of the state. This bill would have required state agencies adopting regulations to assess the regulation's impact to the cost of living in the state. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 1444 (Flora) Publication: newspapers of general circulation. This bill would have required public notices to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, on the newspaper's internet website, if one exists, and on a statewide internet website. Status: Asm Inactive File.

SB 41 (Wiener) Pharmacy benefits: PBM records. Among other things, this bill prohibits pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from retaining the difference in payment to a pharmacy compared to the amount paid by the health plan or insurer (a.k.a. spread pricing). Of relevance to this Committee's jurisdiction, the bill modifies an overly restrictive limitation on public disclosure of PBM records that are retained by the Department of Managed Healthcare and the California Department of Insurance; and ensures that the Attorney General can enforce the bill's requirements and restrictions. Status: Chap. 605, Stats. 2025.

SB 495 (Allen) Insurance: records. The bill requires certain insurers to submit a report to the Commissioner that includes "data and information necessary to understand their reinsurance program placement data and use of catastrophe models for the previous policy year." The bill specifies that information submitted to the Insurance Commissioner is confidential and exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the CPRA. Status: Chap. 542, Stats. 2025.

SB 572 (Gonzalez) Advanced driver assistance system: crash reports. This bill would have ensured that crash data about certain self-driving vehicles continued to be collected by government regulators and made available to the public (except to the extent that the information were confidential and exempt from disclosure to the public). Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 609 (Laird) Fish: commercial fishing records. This bill updates current law regarding the confidentiality of commercial fishing records to align with the confidentiality laws of other West Coast states, more closely align with the California Public Records Act, and assist state and local regulators to enforce commercial fishing laws. Status: Chap. 227, Stats. 2025.

SB 769 (Caballero) The Golden State Infrastructure Corporation Act: records. This bill would have established the Golden State Infrastructure Corporation within the State Treasurer's Office as a not-for-profit corporation for the purpose of financing infrastructure projects. Of relevance to the jurisdiction of this Committee, the bill would have made some records of the Corporation exempt from disclosure pursuant to California Public Records Act. Status: Asm Inactive File.

PROBATE AND RELATED MATTERS

Civil Commitment, Conservatorship and Guardianship

AB 416 (Krell) Involuntary commitment: emergency physician. This bill requires a county behavioral health director to include emergency physicians (EPs) as professionals who are eligible to be designated by the county when it develops procedures for designating and training professionals to initiate involuntary detentions pursuant to Section 5150 of the Welfare &

Institutions Code. It also provides that an EP who detains a person in a county-designated facility has qualified immunity from civil and criminal liability for any action by a person released at or before the end of the period for which the person was admitted pursuant to the provisions of the appropriate article. Status: Chap. 691, Stats. 2025.

AB 495 (C. Rodriguez) Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025. This bill establishes the Family Preparedness Plan Act. The Act involves various changes to existing law to bolster protections for immigrant parents and their children. First, the bill revises the definition of a relative who is allowed to execute a caregiver's authorization affidavit to conform with existing provisions of the Family Code and grants them the same rights as a guardian for purposes of authorizing medical care. Second, the bill expands existing provisions authorizing joint guardianship to also be available for parents who may be absent or unavailable to parent a child in the future. Third, the bill imposes requirements on licensed day care and child care facilities as those required of public schools related to authorizing entry and access of agents for immigration activity. Finally, the bill requires disclosure of information by school districts to the Attorney General related to immigration enforcement activity, and requires revisions to the Attorney General's guidance on how districts should respond to immigration enforcement. Status: Chap. 664, Stats. 2025.

AB 586 (Flora) Professional fiduciaries. This bill would have authorized licensed professional fiduciaries to form professional fiduciary corporations under the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act, subject to specified requirements. Each corporation would have been required to register with the Secretary of State, ensure that only actively licensed fiduciaries provide services, and prohibit disqualified or unlicensed persons from serving as officers, directors, or shareholders. Corporate names would have been required to include the name of a qualified licensee, who would have served as the primary contact with the bureau. The bill would have barred fiduciary corporations from billing clients for incorporation costs or name changes, and would have authorized the bureau to adopt implementing regulations. Corporations would have been required, upon request, to submit a corporation-wide report containing information on licensees, entity filings, client case logs, and aggregate managed assets, with failure to respond within 60 days deemed unprofessional conduct. The report would have been treated as an investigatory licensing record, subject to limited disclosure exceptions. Finally, the bill would have prohibited superior courts from appointing a fiduciary or fiduciary corporation unless duly licensed, exempt, or organized under Moscone-Knox. Status: Held, Sen. Appropriations.

AB 1025 (Pellerin) Standby guardianship of minors. This bill would have established the Standby Caretaker Act. The Standby Caretaker Act would have authorized, subject to specified conditions, a custodial parent of a minor to nominate another person to serve as a standby caretaker of a minor child upon the occurrence of an activating event, and further nominate a second person to serve as an alternate standby caretaker. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

AB 1105 (Quirk-Silva) Conservatorships. This bill would have expanded the types of residential facilities a conservator may have selected to authorize the placement of a conservatee to include certain facilities with a secured perimeter, delayed egress device, or both. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

SB 27 (Umberg) CARE Act. This bill makes numerous changes to the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, including by allowing persons who are found incompetent to stand trial and charged with felonies to be diverted from criminal proceedings and referred to a CARE Act court; expanding the mental health criteria for a person to be eligible for participation in the CARE program to include “bipolar I disorder with psychotic features, except psychosis related to current intoxication”; and allowing a nurse practitioner and physician assistant to be a licensed behavioral health professional for purposes of individuals authorized to prepare an affidavit supporting a CARE process petition. Status: Chap. 528, Stats. 2025.

SB 331 (Menjivar) LPS Act and CARE Act. This bill would have permitted an original petitioner to be assigned ongoing rights by the court throughout the CARE process; and defined “mental health disorder” for purposes of the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act as any condition outlined in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Status: Asm Health.

SB 471 (Menjivar) Office of the Lanterman Ombudsperson. This bill establishes the Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson (Office) as an independent and autonomous entity within the Department of Developmental Services (DDS); specifies rules regarding information and records obtained and disclosed by the Office; and provides governmental immunity to the Ombudsperson. Status: Chap. 223, Stats 2025.

Elder Abuse

AB 251 (Kalra) Elders and dependent adults: abuse or neglect. This bill authorizes a court to reduce the standard of proof required to prove abuse, abandonment, or neglect of an elder or dependent adult in a civil action from clear and convincing evidence, to preponderance of the evidence, in cases where the defendant has engaged in spoliation of the evidence substantiating the abuse. Status: Chap. 433, Stats. 2025.

AB 871 (Stefani) Mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult. This bill would have required a financial institution to provide annual training to its mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult on how to report suspected abuse to the relevant authority. It would have also required a federal institution to share information on reporting mechanisms upon discovering potential financial abuse and encourage clients to submit timely complaints. Status: Asm Banking & Finance.

AB 909 (Schiavo) Financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult: mandated reporters. This bill would have established comprehensive consumer protections for elders and dependent adults who are victims of fraudulently induced financial transactions. It would have capped an injured consumer’s liability at \$50 or the amount transacted before the financial institution had notice, placed the burden of proof on financial institutions in disputes, and required provisional recrediting of accounts pending investigation. Financial institutions that failed to comply could have been subject to civil liability, treble damages, statutory damages, and attorney’s fees. The bill would have created reimbursement rights against recipients of fraudulent transfers and joint liability among financial institutions that received proceeds. It also would have authorized injured consumers to assert fraud-related defenses in debt collection actions, with treble damages

against creditors or debt collectors who pursued debts despite notice of fraud. Status: Asm Banking & Finance.

Trusts and Estates

AB 565 (Dixon) Representation of trust beneficiaries. This bill modifies existing law to allow that, for the purpose of establishing, modifying, or executing a trust, notice provided to a person authorized to represent and bind another person is sufficient to comply with notice requirements for actions regarding a trust, subject to specified limitations and requirements. Status: Chap. 39, Status. 2025.

PROPERTY AND RELATED MATTERS

Mortgage Lending and Foreclosure

AB 238 (Harabedian) Mortgage forbearance: state of emergency: wildfire. This bill enacts the Mortgage Forbearance Act to provide temporary relief for borrowers financially impacted by the January 2025 Eaton and Palisades wildfires. Eligible borrowers may request up to 12 months of mortgage payment forbearance in 90-day increments, without late fees, default interest, or foreclosure activity during the forbearance period. Servicers must respond promptly to requests, provide written explanations for denials, and allow borrowers to cure curable defects. Forborne payments must ultimately be repaid, but lump-sum repayment is prohibited if the borrower was current at entry into forbearance. The bill requires credit reporting to treat accounts in forbearance as current and prohibits foreclosure while forbearance terms are met. Provisions defer to federally backed servicing guidelines where compliance would otherwise conflict. The Department of Financial Protection and Innovation must provide borrowers with guidance and resources online. The bill is an urgency statute and takes immediate effect. Status: Chap. 128, Stats. 2025.

AB 1158 (Chen) Mortgages. This bill was intended to address widespread concerns about the misuse of California's post-foreclosure bidding framework enacted under SB 1079 (Skinner, 2020), which was intended to allow tenants, affordable housing nonprofits, and public entities to acquire residential properties after foreclosure. This bill would have narrowed the definition of "eligible property" to exclude uninhabitable, high-value, and junior lien properties; eliminated the categories of prospective owner-occupants and nonprofit corporations from the list of eligible post-sale bidders; and imposed enhanced documentation requirements on tenant buyers, including a recorded one-year occupancy covenant. In response to reports of manipulation and suppression of foreclosure auction activity, the bill would have required successful SB 1079 bidders to pay a 1.2% time-value reimbursement to the original auction winner and authorized the high bidder to bring a private right of action against fraudulent post-sale bidders. The bill would have codified liability protections and clarified post-sale duties, including timely return of funds and final disbursements. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

SB 750 (Cortese) California Residential Mortgage Insurance Act. This bill, subject to voter approval of a constitutional amendment, would have established the California Housing Finance and Credit Program (Program), a state-backed credit enhancement program for affordable

housing construction loans administered by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA). Status: Asm Appropriations.

Personal Property

AB 498 (M. Rodriguez) Self-service storage facilities: lien notices: email. This bill, sponsored by the Self Storage Association and the California Self Storage Association, seeks to modernize the methods by which self-storage facility owners may provide statutory lien notices to occupants. The measure allows a self-storage owner to satisfy their lien notification obligations via email, so long as there is evidence that the occupant actually opened, downloaded, or otherwise acknowledged receipt of the notice. Status: Chap. 369, Stats. 2025.

AB 501 (Papan) Liens on aircraft: sale. This bill would have modified the notice requirements regarding notice provided by lienholders of liens related to the services, materials, or storage provided for any aircraft. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 1447 (Gipson) Unclaimed property: notice. This bill would have modified the Unclaimed Property Law to clarify that the Controller's required notice to each person entitled to unclaimed property in its possession need only be sent to an address when it is a valid deliverable address. Status: Sen Desk.

SB 709 (Menjivar) Self-service storage: rental agreement disclosures. This bill, for rental agreements initially entered into on or after January 1, 2026, requires a rental agreement to disclose, in a prescribed manner, certain items, including whether the rental fee is discounted or promotional, whether the rental fee is subject to change, and the maximum rental fee that the owner could charge during the first 12 months following the date of the rental agreement. Status: Chap. 353, Stats. 2025.

SB 822 (Becker) Unclaimed property: digital financial assets. This bill modernizes California's Unclaimed Property Law (UPL) to expressly include digital financial assets—such as cryptocurrency—within the scope of property that may escheat to the state when unclaimed. Specifically, the bill provides that digital financial assets held or maintained by a business association or other entity in the ordinary course of business are subject to escheat to the state under the same conditions and dormancy periods that apply to other forms of intangible personal property. The bill permits the Controller to convert the digital assets to fiat currency within a limited time period, and enables the owner to receive the net proceeds. The bill also permits the Controller to select one or more custodians for the management and safekeeping of digital assets that have escheated to the state in consideration of certain criteria. Status: Chap. 660, Stats. 2025.

Common Interest Developments

AB 21 (DeMaio) Common interest developments: association management and meeting procedures. This bill would have established the Homeowner Association Accountability and Transparency Act of 2025, to make various changes to the Common Interest Development Open Meeting Act, regarding the management and meeting procedures and protocols for homeowner associations. Status: Failed, Asm Housing & Community Development.

SB 410 (Grayson) Common interest developments: association records: exterior elevated elements inspection. This bill requires the owner of a separate interest to provide a copy of the report issued from the most recent inspection of exterior elevated elements in a common interest development to a prospective purchaser of the separate interest, requires inspection reports to contain specified information, and requires homeowners associations to preserve inspection reports as association records. Status: Chap. 516, Stats. 2025.

SB 625 (Wahab) Housing developments: disasters: reconstruction of destroyed or damaged structures. This bill streamlines the reconstruction of properties damaged or destroyed in a disaster for which a state of emergency has been declared by limiting discretionary reviews of various aspects of the reconstruction by local governments and the homeowner associations that govern common interest developments. Status: Chap. 548, Stats. 2025.

SB 770 (Allen) Common interest developments: EV charging stations. This bill repeals the provision of existing law requiring a certificate of insurance for an electronic vehicle charging station built within a common interest development to name the homeowners association as an additional insured under the owner’s insurance policy. Status: Chap. 525, Stats. 2025.

Real Property

AB 418 (Wilson) Property taxation: tax-defaulted property. This bill amends Revenue and Taxation Code Section 3794.3 to strengthen due process protections in Chapter 8 sales of tax-defaulted property to public agencies or nonprofit organizations. A sale may take place only if the board of supervisors, after a noticed hearing, finds based on substantial evidence that the sale price meets or exceeds the property’s tax sale value or that no excess proceeds would result from a public auction. The bill requires detailed mailed notice to the assessee and parties of interest at least 45 days before the hearing, with rights to appear and present evidence. Any determination may be challenged through judicial review under Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, with the superior court limited to the administrative record. The bill also requires taxing agencies or nonprofits purchasing property to bear the costs of hearings. Status: Chap. 149, Stats. 2025.

AB 455 (Ortega) Real estate: environmental hazards: thirdhand smoke. This bill amends the Homeowners’ Guide to Environmental Hazards and real estate disclosure requirements to address thirdhand smoke. It defines “thirdhand smoke” as the toxic chemical residue left behind by tobacco smoke that persists in building materials and exposes occupants to Proposition 65–listed chemicals. The bill requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to update the Homeowners’ Guide to include a section on thirdhand smoke, delegating initial drafting to the Center for Tobacco and the Environment at San Diego State University. It also requires sellers of single-family residential property who have actual knowledge of smoking or vaping on the property, or of residue from those activities, to disclose that knowledge in writing to buyers. Status: Chap. 263, Stats. 2025.

AB 732 (Macedo) Agriculture: neglected or abandoned crops: public nuisances: pests. This bill authorize county agricultural commissioners, in lieu of imposing a lien on a property that has been determined to be neglected or abandoned, to levy a civil penalty against a person who maintains a pest-related public nuisance on their property in violation of current law. Status: Chap. 440, Stats. 2025.

AB 851 (McKinnor) Real property transactions: County of Los Angeles wildfires. This urgency bill prohibits unsolicited offers to purchase residential property in specified Los Angeles and Ventura County ZIP Codes affected by the January 2025 wildfires. Buyers and sellers must execute and record a written attestation affirming that a purchase agreement did not result from an unsolicited offer, creating a presumption of compliance. Licensed real estate professionals who make such offers are deemed to have violated licensing laws. The Attorney General and local prosecutors may enforce the law, and sellers may cancel unlawful agreements for up to four months. Violators are subject to civil penalties up to \$25,000 per violation, misdemeanor liability, and injunctive relief. The measure takes effect 30 days after enactment and sunsets January 1, 2027. Status: Chap. 535, Stats. 2025.

AB 1033 (Lackey) Eminent domain: appraisals: compensation. This bill would have modified the statutory definition of “reasonable cost” for retaining a licensed appraiser for the purpose of appraising a property that is under threat of eminent domain to increase compensation to the appraiser to reflect inflation. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 1240 (Lee) Single-family residential real property: corporate entity. This bill would have prohibited a business entity, as defined, that has an interest in more than 1,000 single-family residential properties from purchasing, acquiring, or otherwise obtaining an ownership interest in another single-family residential property and subsequently leasing the property. This bill would have given the Attorney General authority to enforce this measure by bringing a civil action. It would have exempted single-family residential property constructed for the purpose of leasing in which the business entity has an ownership interest in the construction or is the initial purchaser of the constructed property. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 1385 (Petrie-Norris) Unlawfully restrictive covenants: housing developments: Palisades Fire. This bill would have permitted an owner of a property subject to a restrictive covenant that limits the size or density of housing on the property and that is located in a county that experienced a major wildfire disaster occurring in January 2025 to record a restrictive covenant modification document making those restrictive covenants unenforceable. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 1406 (Ward) Subdivisions: disbursements of deposits. This bill would have provided a process through which a developer of a subdivision may utilize all of a buyer’s deposit on a new development to pay for construction costs, and would have exempted such sales from the three percent liquidated damages cap for real estate sales contracts. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 1427 (Calderon) Consumer credit report: sale of property: wildfires. This bill would have prohibited a consumer credit reporting agency from making a consumer credit report containing information about the sale of property that is located in an area where the Governor has proclaimed a state of emergency due to a natural disaster and the property is rendered uninhabitable as a result of the natural disaster, and further prohibited the sale from being listed as a negative factor when making a credit decision. Status: Sen Judiciary.

SB 237 (Grayson) Single family residential property. As referred to this Committee, this would have required, for any transfer or sale of a single-family residential property on or after January 1, 2026, a seller of a single-family residential property that was rebuilt after the structure

previously on the property was destroyed by an event for which a state of emergency or local emergency was declared, to disclose to the buyer specified additional information, including the name and license numbers of any contractors that performed work on the property, the permits obtained to rebuild the property, and the names and license numbers of any third parties that performed work on the property that requires a license. The bill was amended to address unrelated issues of in-state oil production, removing it from the jurisdiction of the Committee. Status: Chap. 118, Stats. 2025.

SB 255 (Seyarto) County recorders: notification. This bill requires every county, on or before January 1, 2027, to establish a recorder notification program to notify the parties to a deed, quitclaim deed, mortgage, or deed of trust within 30 days of recordation of such a document. Status: Chap. 351, Stats. 2025.

SB 681 (Wahab) Housing. This bill would have made several changes to laws governing housing approvals, elements, common interest developments, and building standards. Status: Asm Housing & Community Development.

SB 697 (Laird) Determination of water rights: stream system. (See CIVIL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE / *Civil Procedure*)

SB 757 (Richardson) Local government: nuisance abatement. This bill would have authorized the legislative body of a city or county to collect fines for specified violations related to a nuisance on a property using a nuisance abatement lien or a special assessment. Status: Vetoed.

Rental Property

AB 246 (Bryan) State of Emergency: rental increases. As first heard by this Committee, this bill, in response to the wildfires in the Los Angeles area, would have imposed a rent freeze in Los Angeles County through March 1, 2026, as specified. The bill was later amended to create the Social Security Tenant Protection Act and was heard a second time by this Committee. Status: See below.

AB 246 (Bryan) Social Security Tenant Protection Act. This bill establishes the Social Security Tenant Protection Act of 2025. The Act authorizes a tenant of residential real property to assert a “Social Security hardship” (defined as an interruption in the payment of Social Security benefits due to the action or inaction of the federal government) as an affirmative defense in an unlawful detainer proceeding based on the nonpayment of rent. Status: Chap. 337, Stats. 2025.

AB 311 (McKinnor) Dwelling units: persons at risk of homelessness. This bill would have allowed a tenant, with the written approval of the landlord, to permit a person who is at risk of homelessness, as defined, to occupy their dwelling unit notwithstanding the terms of the rental agreement. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 414 (Pellerin) Residential tenancies: return of security. This bill requires a landlord who receives a security deposit or rental payments by means of electronic transfer to return the

security deposit by electronic transfer, unless the landlord and tenant agree to a different method of returning the security deposit. Status: Chap. 340, Stats. 2025.

AB 474 (Ward) Tenancy: caregivers and lodgers: nonprofit home-sharing program. This bill would have created incentives for persons to participate in nonprofit home-sharing programs, as defined. Among other things, the bill would have excluded income received through renting bedrooms or units through a nonprofit home-sharing program from consideration as income for the purposes of determining eligibility for certain social services and benefits. In addition, the bill would have specified that "discrimination," under state housing law, does not include refusal to rent or lease a portion of an owner-occupied single-family house to a person as a roomer, boarder, or tenant living within the household if, among other things, the owner is participating in a nonprofit home-sharing program. Status: Vetoed.

AB 628 (McKinnor) Hiring of real property: dwellings: untenability. This bill requires a rental unit, for leases entered into, amended, or extended on or after January 1, 2026, to have a working stove and refrigerator, subject to certain exemptions, in order to be deemed tenantable (or habitable). Status: Chap. 342, Stats. 2025.

AB 635 (Ahrens) Mobilehome Residency Law: Protection Program: Attorney General. This bill would have required the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to refer up to 25 alleged violations, as specified, from the Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program (MRLPP) in any given fiscal year to the office of the Attorney General (AG), authorized the AG to use funds from the Mobilehome Dispute Resolution Fund (the Fund), and extended the sunset date of the MRLPP from 2027 to 2030. Status: Sen Judiciary.

AB 768 (Avila Farias) Mobilehome parks: rent and protections: local rent control. This bill would have prohibited the application of local rent control laws to mobilehome spaces that are not the only or principal residence of a homeowner. The bill deleted a presumption that a mobilehome is a homeowner's principal residence if they receive a homeowner's tax exemption for that mobilehome, among other changes. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 806 (Connolly) Mobilehomes: cooling systems. This bill prohibits management or ownership of mobilehome parks from restricting a homeowner's ability to install a cooling system in their mobilehome, with some exceptions. Specifies that management may prohibit a homeowner or resident from installing, upgrading, replacing, or using a cooling system if a permit from a designated permitting authority is required, and that permit is not granted. Status: Chap. 343, Stats. 2025.

AB 863 (Kalra) Residential rental properties: language requirements. This bill requires the Judicial Council to create, by January 1, 2027, a single summons form for mandatory use in an action for unlawful detainer to remove a tenant from a residential property in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean. The bill also requires the Judicial Council to publish the form on its internet website. Status: Chap. 344, Stats. 2025.

AB 878 (Kalra) Victims of abuse or violence: reasonable accommodations: tenancies. This bill would have required a landlord or a landlord's agent, upon request, to make best efforts to provide reasonable accommodations, as defined, to a tenant who is a victim, or whose family or

household member is a victim, of specified acts, including domestic violence or sexual assault. Status: Held, Sen Appropriations.

AB 924 (Davies) Leases: termination of tenancy: abuse or violence: security deposit. This bill would have required a landlord to pay a calculated share of the security deposit, as provided, to a victim of domestic violence or other specified crime who terminates a tenancy because another tenant committed the specified crime. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 1157 (Kalra) Tenancy: just cause terminations: rent increases. This bill would have amended the Tenant Protection Act (TPA) to lower the allowable annual increase to 5%, as specified; eliminated the exemption for single-family housing in the existing TPA; and removed the TPA sunset date, thereby making the TPA permanent. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 1183 (Lowenthal) Residential tenancy: habitability: right to cure. This bill would have allowed a landlord to elect to have an inspection performed to verify that the dwelling unit satisfies the habitability requirements, as specified. If the inspection is performed, the bill would have established a presumption that the dwelling unit meets that standard for an unspecified period of time. The bill would have authorized a local agency that performs an inspection at the request of a landlord to charge the landlord a fee sufficient to cover its cost. Status: Asm Judiciary.

AB 1248 (Haney) Hiring of real property. This bill would have limited the fees that a landlord may charge in addition to rent and would have required that any housing services provided by the landlord must be included in the rent and not charged as a separate fee. The bill would have prohibited a landlord from using a ratio utility billing system to allocate, demand, or collect fees or charges from a tenant, except as provided. Status: Asm Inactive File.

AB 1414 (Ransom) Landlord tenant: internet provider. This bill prohibits a landlord from requiring a tenant to use a particular internet service provider and allows a tenant to deduct the cost of the internet subscription from rent if a landlord violates this provision. Specifically, the bill requires a landlord, for any tenancy commenced, renewed, or continuing on a month-to-month basis, on or after January 1, 2026, to allow the tenant to opt out of any subscription from a third-party internet service provider for specified services. The bill also specifies that if the landlord or their agent violates this provision, the tenant may deduct the cost of the subscription from the rent. Status: Chap. 506, Stats. 2025.

SB 346 (Durazo) Local agencies: transient occupancy tax: short-term rental facilitator. This bill enacts the Short-Term Rental Facilitator Act of 2025, which permits local agencies to enact ordinances to require short-term rental facilitators to provide specified information on their platform's rentals to the local agency. Status: Chap. 751, Stats. 2025.

SB 436 (Wahab) Unlawful detainer: notice to terminate tenancy. This bill would have provided that a notice to terminate a tenancy, or the notice to "pay rent or quit," shall permit the tenant at least 14 days (instead of the current three days) to pay the amount that is due or vacate the premises. Status: Failed, Asm. Judiciary.

SB 522 (Wahab) Housing: tenant protections. This bill would have exempted housing built to replace a previous housing unit from the 15-year rolling exemption for new construction relative

to the just cause eviction provisions of the TPA if the following criteria are met: the previous unit was substantially damaged or destroyed by a disaster that the Governor determined presented a threat to public safety; the previous unit was issued a certificate of occupancy before the unit was substantially damaged or destroyed; and the previous unit was subject to the just cause eviction provisions of the TPA before the disaster. Status: Asm Inactive File.

SB 610 (Perez, Allen, Wahab) Disaster assistance: tenants: mobilehome parks. This bill makes various changes to landlord-tenant law, to the Mobilehome Residency Law regarding mobilehome parks, and to the Subdivision Map Act in order to provide additional protections to tenants and mobilehome owners during disasters. Status: Chap. 547, Stats. 2025.

SB 749 (Allen) Mobilehome parks: closure or change of use. This bill would have required a mobilehome park owner to provide notice to tenants and affected public entities regarding the closure or change of use of a mobilehome park. The bill would have prohibited a park owner from proceeding with a change without first providing qualified entities an opportunity to purchase the park. In addition, the bill would have specified that a mobilehome park resident is not obligated to pay rent during the time they are unable to live in the mobilehome park following a wildfire or other natural disaster. Status: Held, Asm Appropriations.

Affordable Housing

AB 1050 (Schultz) Unlawfully restrictive covenants: housing developments. This bill expands the existing process whereby a purchaser of a property can remove a covenant, condition, or restriction limiting the property's use for affordable housing to include properties subject to limitations requiring that the property remain exclusively used for commercial purposes. Status: Chap. 504, Stats. 2025.

Intellectual Property

AB 412 (Bauer-Kahan) Generative AI: training data: copyrighted materials. This bill would have established new obligations for developers of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) models that were trained on copyrighted materials. Developers would have been required to document covered materials used in training, identify rights owners, and make available online tools for generating and submitting digital “fingerprints” of copyrighted works. Rights owners would have been able to submit verified requests for information, and developers would have been required to respond within 30 days by disclosing whether the owner’s works were documented or likely present in training datasets. Each day of noncompliance would have constituted a separate violation. Rights owners denied information could have brought civil actions for statutory damages, injunctive relief, attorney’s fees, and other remedies. Exemptions would have applied to models trained solely on public domain data, developer-owned works, or for noncommercial academic or governmental research. Status: Sen Judiciary.

MISCELLANEOUS

AB 1170 (Dixon) Code Maintenance. This bill is the annual maintenance of the codes bill that is sponsored by the Office of Legislative Counsel to make nonsubstantive changes to various codes. Status: Chap. 67, Stats. 2025.

AB 1521 (Committee on Judiciary) Omnibus. This bill makes numerous minor, technical and non-controversial updates to the codes falling within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Judiciary, including requiring notice to the Department of Child Support Services of probate petitions, standardizing discovery timelines in unlawful detainer procedures, and various other clarifying amendments. Status: Chap. 200, Stats. 2025.

SB 702 (Limon, Cervantes) Legislative and gubernatorial appointments: report. This bill requires the Governor and both houses of the Legislature to prepare and publish on their respective internet websites a report containing aggregate demographic information about all of their respective appointees who are appointed during the prior calendar year. Status: Chap. 423, Stats. 2025.