

## **Fact Sheet AB 54**

### **Commission on Disability Access Complaint Forms: Standard Formatting**

#### **Assemblymember Kristin Olsen**

**IN BRIEF:** AB 54 requires that disability access complaint letters be submitted to the Commission on Disability Access in a standardized format, in order to streamline the commission to evaluate complaints and identify high-frequency litigants.

**THE ISSUE:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was created in 1990 to prohibit discrimination and allow individuals with disabilities to have greater access to public buildings. However, ADA regulations are continuously changing, and small businesses have had difficulty keeping up with access standards. As a result, businesses up and down the state have become vulnerable targets for frivolous lawsuits, and the California Commission on Disability Access has become flooded with access complaints. AB 1521 (2015) was passed last year to discourage the abuse of disability access complaints. Starting in 2019, the commission will require disability access complaints to be filed in a standard format so that the commission is able to maintain its database of high frequency litigants. There is no prescription for such a format in law until 2019. This has increased the time it takes for the commission to evaluate complaints, and has allowed high frequency litigants to continue filing without being properly identified.

**CODE SECTION AFFECTED:** AB 54 will amend Civil Code Section 55.32 to require disability access complaints to be submitted in a standard format to the Commission on Disability Access.

**THE SOLUTION:** This bill will ensure that the Commission on Disability Access receives access complaints in a standard format, which will simplify the process of reviewing these important documents and ensure that individuals with patterns of abuse of access laws are more quickly identified.

**SUPPORT:** California Family Business Association California Grocers Association

**OPPOSITION:** None on file

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