

ASSEMBLYMAN MARC STEINORTH

AB 1342: CA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS

BACKGROUND

The California Commission on Disability Access was formed by the Legislature in 2008 to facilitate dialogue surrounding access compliance among the disabled, business, legal, and other interested communities. The Commission is focused on increasing collaboration and coordination between stakeholders, and is charged by the Legislature with the creation and dissemination of educational materials.

Since its inception in 2008, the Legislature has expanded the responsibilities of the Commission. Notably, SB 1186 (Steinberg, 2012) requires the Commission to maintain records and publish reports of every attorney demand and/or complaint relating to building accessibility in the State of California. This legislation also requires the Commission to collaborate with the Division of the State Architect and Department of Rehabilitation to develop educational materials for businesses regarding disability access.

The CCDA has developed a Strategic 5-Year Plan which outlines a variety of goals for its role in the future. These include increased involvement with the Legislature, collecting further data on the status of access compliance, developing and disseminating more educational resources, and identifying new revenue streams. For example, the CCDA seeks to identify new revenue sources by forging partnerships with the private sector and create a loan/grant program where major corporations can help support small businesses with access compliance.

Current CCDA funding levels are greatly insufficient for them to play a more proactive and positive role as a resource, mediator, and facilitator where the business and disabled communities intersect. When CCDA can better

help businesses prepare for inspections and proactively avoid violations, everyone benefits.

AB 1342

The responsibilities of the Commission are significant in aligning the needs of the disabled with the business community. AB 1342 will require the Commission to hire legislative and educational outreach coordinators, as is outlined in their aforementioned 5-Year Plan.

AB 1342 requires any property owner whose property has undergone inspection by a Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) to share the results of said inspection report with tenants. The transparency provided by this requirement will ensure that tenants are aware of any potential violations, better situating both property owners and tenants to make their properties compliant.

AB 1342 will also improve the CAsp system by requiring CAsp applicants to list the counties they intend to serve, so that businesses may more easily locate an inspector to arrange an inspection.

SUPPORT

California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
Consumer Attorneys of California
National Federation of Independent Business
California Building Industry Association
International Council of Shopping Centers
American Institute of Architects, CA Council
Commercial Real Estate Development
Association
Building Owners and Managers Association of
CA

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