

Fact Sheet AB 54

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Bill: AB 54, Commission on Disability Access Complaint Forms: Standard Formatting

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 target to disability access lawsuits, and the California Commission on Disability Access has become flooded with access complaint letters. The commission has been receiving and processing complaint letters for decades. However, the format of each letter differs, making the review process more time consuming. AB 1521 (2015) was passed to help the commission review these documents and identify individuals that file multiple access lawsuits. Starting in 2019, a portion of AB 1521 will take effect to require disability access complaints to be filed in a standard format so that the commission can better maintain its database of litigants. Because there is no prescription for such a format in law until 2019, the Commission has experienced an increase in the time it takes to evaluate complaints.

Code Section Affected: AB 54 will amend Civil Code Section 55.32 to require disability access complaints to be submitted in a standard format designed by the Commission on Disability Access.

The Solution: This bill will ensure that the Commission on Disability Access receives access complaints in a standard format immediately, 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 is on file

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