



Summary of Court-Related Legislation

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA • GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

December 2025

During the first year of the 2025–2026 Legislative Session, the Legislature and Governor enacted numerous bills that affect the courts or are of general interest to the judicial branch. Brief descriptions of the measures of greatest interest follow, arranged according to subject matter. Also included is a table summarizing new laws that create new crimes or expand existing crimes, as well as an index listing all the bills and the page numbers on which their descriptions can be found.

The effective date of legislation is stated with each measure. Urgency and budget measures normally take effect immediately upon enactment, and some other measures have delayed operative dates.

This *Summary* is intended to serve only as a guide to identify bills of interest; the bill descriptions are not a complete statement of statutory changes. Code section references are to the sections most directly affected by the bill; not all sections are necessarily cited.

Bill texts can be examined in their chaptered form in *West's California Legislative Service* or *California Deering's Advance Legislative Service*, where they are published by chapter number. In addition, chaptered bills and legislative committee analyses can be accessed at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. Individual chapters may be ordered directly from the Legislative Bill Room, State Capitol, 10th Street, Room B32, Sacramento, California 95814, 916-445-2323.

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2025 SUMMARY OF COURT-RELATED LEGISLATION

Appellate Procedure

AB 1071 (Kalra), CH. 721

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Criminal procedure: discrimination

Amends the Racial Justice Act (RJA) by, among other things, specifying that a defendant or petitioner may request discovery in preparation to file an RJA claim, allowing courts to impose a remedy specific to the violation that is not otherwise prohibited by law, lowering the prima facie showing threshold for habeas RJA claims, allowing a defendant to be appointed counsel for an RJA habeas petition if they pled a plausible allegation, and specifying that a court can remedy an RJA claim brought by habeas or the vacatur process by selecting from the applicable remedies outlined in the RJA. (PEN amend 745, 1473, 1473.7)

Artificial Intelligence

AB 316 (Krell), CH. 672

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Artificial intelligence: defenses

Provides that in an action against a defendant who developed, modified, or used artificial intelligence that is alleged to have caused a harm to the plaintiff, it shall not be a defense, and the defendant may not assert, that the artificial intelligence autonomously caused the harm to the plaintiff. (CIV add 1714.6)

AB 979 (Irwin), CH. 285

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

California Cybersecurity Integration Center: artificial intelligence

Requires the California Cybersecurity Integration Center to develop a California Artificial Intelligence Cybersecurity Collaboration Playbook to facilitate information sharing across the cyber and artificial intelligence communities and to strengthen collective cyber defenses against emerging threats, including artificial intelligence. (GOV amend 8586.5)

SB 524 (Arreguín), CH. 587

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Law enforcement agencies: artificial intelligence

Requires every law enforcement agency to maintain a policy that requires an artificial intelligence (AI)–generated official report to identify the type of AI program used to generate the report and include the signature of the officer who prepared the official report. (PEN add 13663)

Budget: Judicial Branch Impact

AB 118 (Committee on Budget), CH. 7

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Human services

Requires that beginning July 1, 2025, county welfare agencies convene child and family team meetings for all children and youth receiving family maintenance services. (WIC add 16506.5)

AB 130 (Committee on Budget), CH. 22

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Housing

Makes certain conduct an unlawful practice in connection with a subordinate mortgage, including that the mortgage servicer did not provide the borrower with any communication regarding the loan secured by the mortgage for at least three years. Prohibits a mortgage servicer from conducting or threatening to conduct a nonjudicial foreclosure until the mortgage servicer (1) simultaneously with the recording of a notice of default, records or causes to be recorded a certification, as specified, under penalty of perjury that either the mortgage servicer did not engage in an unlawful practice or the mortgage servicer lists all instances when it committed an unlawful practice; and (2) simultaneously with the service of a recorded notice of default, sends the recorded certification and a notice to the borrower, as specified. Authorizes legal action to enforce the requirements of these provisions. Entitles a plaintiff who prevails in an above-described legal action to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to bring a civil action to enforce these provisions. (CIV amend 714.4, 5850, add 2924.13; GOV amend 65589.5, 65913.16, 65956; HSC amend 17974.3; PRC add 21080.66)

AB 134 (Committee on Budget), CH. 10

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Public safety

Establishes a tribal police pilot program under the Department of Justice and Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Clarifies the delegation of certain responsibilities to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) related to determining the suitability of facilities for the confinement of juveniles, and provides BSCC with the authority to file civil suits to enforce compliance with minimum standards. (PEN add and repeal 11073 et seq.; WIC amend 209)

AB 136 (Committee on Budget), CH. 11

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Courts

Codifies an existing annual report on trial court operations and metrics, eliminates three annual reports, amends the due date of the Allocations and Reimbursements to the Trial Courts to February 1, and clarifies that the *Cash-Flow Loans Made to Trial Courts* report is only required when loan activity occurs. Repeals the jury duty pilot previously created under AB 1981 (Lee; Stats. 2022, ch. 326). Authorizes the Judicial Council to sell three courthouse properties (Plumas/Sierra Regional Courthouse, Modesto Main Courthouse, and Ceres Courthouse), with proceeds to be deposited into the General Fund. Appropriates \$4.7 million from the General Fund into the State Court Facilities Construction Fund as a one-time backfill measure. (CCP repeal 241; GOV amend 68502.6, 77202, 77202.5, 77209, repeal 68604, 77001.5, add 70397.1)

SB 119 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), CH. 79

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Public social services

Requires the state Department of Social Services, through the state Office of Child Abuse Prevention, to develop a standardized curriculum for mandated reporters by July 1, 2027, that is available online. Requires the standardized curriculum for mandated reporters to include various components including but not limited to the history of mandated reporting laws; California's Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act; the federal Indian Child Welfare Act; best practice for defining "reasonable suspicion" and "substantial risk"; differences between "severe neglect" and "general neglect," as defined; California child abuse, neglect, and disproportionality data; definitions of bias and trauma; the impact on families of making a child abuse or neglect report to child protective services; considerations for specified populations; decision-making processes and tools for mandated reporters; and education and information on community resources. Requires the California Child Welfare Council to establish a Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee that includes representatives of county agencies, labor organizations, community-based organizations, and parents and youth directly impacted by the child welfare system. (WIC add 16544.5, 18950.1)

SB 128 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), CH. 16

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Transportation

Delays the commencement of the court's additional authority to restrict or suspend a driver's license for specified violations related to sideshows from July 1, 2025, to January 1, 2029. Also delays provisions that allow a driver to tow a 10,000- to 15,000-pound gooseneck trailer with a noncommercial Class C license for recreational purposes, provided they have successfully completed a knowledge exam, from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2029. (VEH amend 12804.9, 13352, and 23109)

SB 132 (Committee on Budget), CH. 17

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Taxation

Raises the amount the Franchise Tax Board can retain for court-ordered debt collections from up to 15 percent to up to 20 percent. (RTC amend 19282)

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

AB 130 (Committee on Budget), CH. 22

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Housing

For discussion of bill, see page 2.

AB 531 (Rogers), CH. 372

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Geothermal power plants and projects: certification and environmental review

Expands the types of facilities eligible to be certified as environmental leadership development projects by the Energy Commission, and therefor eligible for expedited judicial review, to include geothermal power plants and projects that comprise multiple geothermal power plants on a single site. (PRC amend 25545)

SB 71 (Wiener) CH. 742

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transit projects

Deletes the sunset on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for active transportation plans, pedestrian plans, and bicycle transportation plans for the restriping of streets and highways, bicycle parking and storage, signal timing to improve street and highway intersection operations, and the related signage for bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles. Exempts from the requirements of CEQA a public project for the protection and improvement of bus rapid transit, bus, or light rail service, including protection, operation, and maintenance; public projects for the protection, improvement, institution, or increase of microtransit, paratransit, shuttle, and ferry; and for the protection, maintenance, construction, operation, or rehabilitation of stops that will be exclusively used by zero-emission, near-zero-emission, low oxide of nitrogen engine, compressed natural gas fuel, fuel cell, or hybrid powertrain vehicles, rail or cable cars, rolling stock, or vessels. Extends other CEQA exemptions until January 1, 2040. (PRC amend 21080.20, 21080.25)

SB 611 (Richardson), CH. 228

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Planning and zoning: community plans: review under the California Environmental Quality Act

Reenacts, as an urgency measure, provisions of law that prohibit a court from invalidating a development approval that was granted based on a community plan that meets specified criteria if the development was approved or had a complete application prior to the community plan being invalidated. (GOV add 65458 et seq.)

SB 676 (Limón), CH. 550

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

California Environmental Quality Act: judicial streamlining: state of emergency: wildfire

Requires an action or proceeding brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification of an environmental impact report, or the adoption of a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, for a project located in a geographic area for which the Governor declared a state of emergency on or after January 1, 2023, to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed by wildfire to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 calendar days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings. Requires an applicant to agree to pay the costs of the trial court and Court of Appeal in hearing and deciding any action or proceeding. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court to implement these requirements. (PRC add 21168.6.2)

Child Welfare

AB 118 (Committee on Budget), CH. 7

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Human services

For discussion of bill, see page 2.

AB 243 (Ahrens), CH. 610

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Postsecondary education: student financial aid dependency status: juveniles

Authorizes a county child welfare department, county probation department, or local educational agency, upon the request of a youth formerly in the foster care or probation system, to provide certain otherwise confidential personal information to an institution of higher education to assist the youth's attendance. Requires the institute of higher education to keep the information confidential, and provides that an intentional violation of that confidentiality is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500. (EDC add 66020.8; WIC add 826.9)

AB 343 (Pacheco), CH. 142

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

California Public Records Act: elected or appointed officials

Expands the definition of “elected or appointed official” for the existing disclosure exemptions under the California Public Records Act that protects personal information, such as residence addresses and personal telephone numbers, to include retired judges, court commissioners, active or retired judges of the State Bar Court, federal judges, federal defenders, judges of a federally recognized Indian tribe, and appointees of a court who serve as children’s counsel in family or dependency proceedings. (GOV amend 7920.500)

AB 373 (Rubio), CH. 146

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Dependency proceedings: counsel

Provides that the standard of representation for counsel appointed to represent a nonminor dependent in a dependency proceeding is to represent the wishes of the nonminor dependent, without exception. (WIC amend 317)

AB 562 (Solache), CH. 436

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Foster care: placement: family finding

Creates the Justice Through Placing Foster Children with Families Act, which requires, beginning January 1, 2027, each county to review publicly available data comparing the statewide national average rate of placing children with relatives in the prior year for comparison with the county’s placement rate during the same period, and, in the case of Indian children, the statewide average rate according to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 placement preferences, as specified. Requires that if the county’s placement rate is less than the statewide average, the county welfare director, or their designee, consult with the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement, and Support to identify best practices that may be adopted by the county to improve its placement rate. (WIC amend 309)

AB 651 (Bryan), CH. 274

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Juveniles: dependency: incarcerated parent

Requires notice 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. (PEN amend 2625; WIC amend 349)

AB 653 (Lackey), CH. 379

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Child abuse: mandated reporters: talent agents, managers, and coaches

Expands the list of mandated reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act to include specified talent agents, talent managers, or talent coaches. (PEN amend 11165.7)

AB 741 (Ransom), CH. 619

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Department of Justice: child abuse reporting

Requires the Department of Justice to monitor the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) and notify a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program if a record of a child abuse investigation involving a CASA employee or volunteer is added to that index. Requires a CASA program to verify, at least every six months, that each individual for whom notification has not been terminated is still in a position with the program for which notification is authorized. Requires that the program immediately notify the department to terminate notification for an individual for whom notification is no longer authorized. Allows the department to increase the fee for a CASA candidate's criminal history information sufficient to cover the cost of processing subsequent child abuse investigation notifications from the CACI. (PEN add 11105.04)

AB 779 (Lackey), CH. 381

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Child welfare services: domestic violence consultant pilot program

Authorizes a county child welfare agency to establish a three-year pilot program in which the county partners with a domestic violence consultant from a domestic violence victim service organization to offer support and guidance to county social workers. Authorizes the consultant to provide guidance on how best to address the complex dynamics of families who are potentially experiencing both domestic violence and child maltreatment to enhance the social worker's knowledge of domestic violence and their ability to apply that knowledge to their work with parent survivors and their children through tailored engagement and intervention strategies. Requires a county that implements the pilot program to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program and report its findings to the Legislature on or before October 31, 2031. (WIC add and repeal 16515)

AB 890 (Lee), CH. 281

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Nonminor dependents: county of residence

Authorizes the transfer of jurisdiction for a nonminor dependent upon request if the court finds that the transfer is in the best interest of the nonminor dependent. Authorizes courts to consider the following: whether the transfer would enhance the nonminor dependent's access to services; the position of the social worker and, if applicable, the probation officer; whether the nonminor

dependent would qualify as a resident of the new county; whether the nonminor dependent has established significant connections to the new county; and whether the nonminor dependent is involved in a separate dependency case as a parent in the new county. Requires the court to issue the order for transfer within 30 court days of the nonminor dependent's request, and provides that the new county will be deemed to have jurisdiction over the nonminor dependent within 10 calendar days of the issuance of the order. (WIC amend 17.1, 366.31, 375)

AB 896 (Elhawary), CH. 564

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Foster care: placement transition planning

Requires each county child welfare agency to adopt a placement transition planning policy for supporting foster children who are transitioning between placement settings and foster care to reunification. Requires that the policy ensures that foster children are given the opportunity to provide input on their placement transition and provides guidance to social workers for obtaining input and sharing information in placement transition planning. If a child's placement cannot be preserved, requires the social worker to ensure that there is appropriate placement transition planning consistent with the county's adopted policy. Requires the state Department of Social Services to issue guidance to county child welfare agencies describing best practices and strategies for successful placement transition planning. Requires county child welfare agencies to submit to the department their placement transition planning policy within one year of this guidance being released and funding being provided for the creation of the policies. (WIC amend 16001.9, 16010.7, 16519.5, add 16010.11)

AB 1261 (Bonta), CH. 665

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Immigration: immigrant youth: access to legal counsel

Requires the state, subject to available funding, to provide legal counsel to each unaccompanied undocumented minor who is in the physical custody of the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and present in California or residing with a family member or other sponsor in California. The right to counsel applies in state court proceedings for purposes of obtaining any order necessary for or relevant to immigration remedies, federal immigration proceedings, any related appearances or matters before the United States Department of Homeland Security, and any appeals arising from those proceedings. Defines an unaccompanied undocumented minor as a person who has not attained the age of 18, has no legal immigration status, and either has no parent or legal guardian in the United States or the parent or legal guardian in the United States is not available to provide care and physical custody. (WIC add 13300.5)

AB 1314 (Ahrens), CH. 187

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Transitional housing placement providers

Specifies county contract requirements with a transitional housing placement provider (THP), including prohibiting the contract from containing terms that create unreasonable barriers for a foster youth's admission into the THP program. Requires contracts to ensure that decisions about sharing bedrooms, bathrooms, and units together, regardless of gender identity, are led by the program participant and agreed upon in collaboration with the provider. (HSC amend 1559.110; WIC amend 16522.1)

SB 119 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), CH. 79

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Public social services

For discussion of bill, see page 3.

SB 413 (Allen), CH. 221

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Juveniles: case file inspection

Allows an attorney representing a party in a civil proceeding (defined to mean either a civil action or a government claim filed under the Government Claims Act) to inspect and use information and records in a juvenile case file when the civil claim is filed by or on behalf of the person who is the subject of the juvenile case file. Creates specified procedural protections. Allows information and copies of records from a juvenile case file to be provided to persons assisting the attorneys for the parties in the civil proceeding for their use in that proceeding without the prior approval of the court, but requires them to return all copies of records obtained under this authority at the conclusion of the civil proceeding and take appropriate steps to ensure that all copies of records from a juvenile case file obtained are destroyed upon the conclusion of the civil proceeding consistent with other applicable laws. (WIC amend 827)

SB 624 (Caballero), CH. 230

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Nonminor dependents: tax guidance

Requires the California Department of Social Services to issue guidance to counties regarding practices to support nonminor dependents with filing state and federal income tax returns and accessing the foster youth tax credit. Requires county welfare departments and juvenile probation departments to annually send, by mail, to every nonminor dependent, information about filing state and federal income tax returns and the foster youth tax credit. (WIC add 10618.7)

Civil Procedure

AB 45 (Bauer-Kahan), CH. 134

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Privacy: health data: location and research

Recasts existing law to prohibit the collection, use, disclosure, sale, sharing, or retention of the personal information of a natural person who is physically located at, or within a precise geolocation of, a family planning center. Provides exceptions including the collection or use as necessary to perform the services or provide the goods requested. Provides that the provisions do not alter applicable law regarding use by a law enforcement agency of personal information generated by an electronic monitoring device. Authorizes an aggrieved person to institute and prosecute a civil action against a natural person, association, proprietorship, corporation, trust, foundation, partnership, or any other organization or group of people acting in concert for a violation of these provisions. (CIV amend 1798.99.90, add 1798.99.91, 1798.99.92, 1798.99.93; HSC amend 140)

AB 246 (Bryan), CH. 337

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Social Security Tenant Protection Act of 2025

Enacts, until January 20, 2029, the Social Security Tenant Protection Act of 2025. Authorizes a tenant of residential real property to assert Social Security hardship as an affirmative defense in an unlawful detainer proceeding based on the nonpayment of rent. Requires a tenant asserting Social Security hardship as an affirmative defense to provide, to the satisfaction of the court, evidence that Social Security payments typically received by the tenant's household have been terminated, delayed, or reduced due to no fault of the tenant and that the hardship prevented the tenant from paying the rent. Requires the Judicial Council, by January 1, 2027, to adopt or modify forms as needed for implementation. (CIV add 1946.3)

AB 250 (Aguiar-Curry), CH. 682

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Sexual assault: statute of limitations

Extends the eligibility period for revival of claims to include claims that would otherwise be barred prior to January 1, 2026, because the applicable statute of limitations has or had expired. Requires a revived claim against an entity, as defined, to allege that the plaintiff was sexually assaulted and that (1) one or more entities or persons are legally responsible for damages arising out of sexual assault by an alleged perpetrator against the plaintiff; and (2) an entity or entities, including their specified representatives, engaged in a cover-up or attempted a cover-up of a previous instance or allegations of sexual assault by an alleged perpetrator. Revives a claim against the person who committed the sexual assault brought by a plaintiff who alleges, among other things, that one or more entities or persons are legally responsible for damages arising out

of the sexual assault. Specifies that failure to allege a cover-up as to one entity does not affect revival of a claim or claims against any other entity or person, including the perpetrator. Permits a cause of action for any such claim to proceed if already pending in court on the effective date of the bill or, if not filed by that date, to be commenced between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2027. Exempts public entities from these provisions. (CIV amend 340.16)

AB 251 (Kalra), CH. 433

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Elders and dependent adults: abuse or neglect

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 under specified circumstances in cases where the defendant has engaged in spoliation of the evidence substantiating the abuse. (WIC amend 15657, add 15657.02)

AB 299 (Gabriel), CH. 531

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Motels, hotels, and short-term lodging: disasters

Declares that a person occupying a residence as a result of a disaster is not considered a tenant, for the purposes of an unlawful detainer action, until they have resided there for 270 days. The disaster must have substantially damaged, destroyed, or otherwise made their prior housing uninhabitable. Repeals these provisions on January 1, 2031. (CIV add 1954.079)

AB 316 (Krell), CH. 672

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Artificial intelligence: defenses

For discussion of bill, see page 1.

AB 325 (Aguiar-Curry), CH. 338

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Cartwright Act: violations

Provides that in a complaint for any violation of the Cartwright Act, it is sufficient to contain factual allegations demonstrating that the existence of a contract, combination in the form of a trust, or conspiracy to restrain trade or commerce is plausible, and provides that a complaint for any violation of the Cartwright Act is not required to allege facts tending to exclude the possibility of independent action. (BPC add 16729, 16756.1)

AB 390 (Wilson), CH. 58

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Vehicles: highway safety

Expands the requirement to move over or slow down for maintenance vehicles to all stationary vehicles displaying flashing hazards or other warning devices. (VEH amend 21809)

AB 406 (Schiavo), CH. 148

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Employment: unlawful discrimination: victims of violence

Clarifies timelines for enforcement by the Civil Rights Department and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement regarding employee protections for victims of crime and family members of victims of crime related to AB 2499 (Stats. 2024, ch. 967). (GOV amend 12945.8; LAB add 230, 230.1, amend 230.2, 230.5, 246.5)

AB 515 (Pacheco), CH. 559

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Trial: statement of decision

Effective January 1, 2027, requires a request for a statement of decision in all trials by court to be made in writing, or orally if there is an official record of the proceeding being transcribed, before the matter is submitted for decision. Requires the statement of decision to be served on all parties who appeared at the trial. Authorizes a court to issue a written statement of decision without a request from a party, and would authorize the court to order a party or parties to prepare a draft statement of decision. Permits a party to make objections to a statement of decision, as specified. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt or amend all rules of court necessary to implement these provisions and to prepare a form that a party may use to request a statement of decision. Extends the time the court clerk has to enter the court's judgment to within 30 days after the filing of the court's decision or, if a statement of decision was requested, within 30 days after the statement of decision becomes final. For cases under the Family Code, the court may shorten the time frame with a written order and statement of good cause. (CCP amend, repeal, and add 632, 664)

AB 712 (Wicks), CH. 496

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Housing reform laws: enforcement actions: fines and penalties

Entitles an applicant for a housing development, when the applicant is a prevailing party in an action brought by the applicant, to enforce the public agency's compliance with a housing reform law as applied to the applicant's housing development project. Entitles applicant to reasonable attorney's fees and costs and requires a court to impose fines on a local agency, as specified. Extends any period of limitation for actions under any state law for a period of 60 days beginning on the date the applicant provides written notice to the local agency indicating their intent to commence an action. Prohibits a public agency from requiring the applicant to

indemnify, defend, or hold harmless the public agency in any action alleging the public agency violated the applicant's rights or deprived the applicant of the benefits or protection provided by a housing reform law. (GOV add 65914.2)

AB 747 (Kalra), CH. 563

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Service of Process Accountability, Reform, and Equity (SPARE) Act

Defines "reasonable diligence," for purposes of service of process, to mean attempting personal delivery of the summons and complaint, in good faith, on at least three occasions on three different days at three different times, with at least one such attempt being made at the dwelling house or usual place of abode of the person to be served, if such can be determined with reasonable effort. Specifies that if the dwelling house or usual place of abode of the person to be served cannot be determined with reasonable effort, the proof of service shall contain information as specified, including the efforts taken to locate the home address of the person to be served. Requires the proof of service of a summons and complaint, if served personally, by substitute service, or by mail, to include at least one photograph, if such can be obtained without compromising the safety of the process server, of the site of the effectuated or attempted service and contain a readable stamp and global positioning system (GPS) coordinates indicating the date, time, and location of service. Requires the process server to provide a detailed statement on the proof of service, as specified, if there is no GPS or cellular signal available at the time and place of the effected or attempted service. Authorizes a party, upon a showing that service of the summons and complaint was not effectuated, to bring a motion to quash service or to set aside or vacate a default judgment that is void for lack of proper service at any time after entry of the judgment. Specifies that if a party files a motion to quash service or to set aside or vacate a default or default judgment, the plaintiff has the burden of producing evidence and establishing by a preponderance of the evidence that the court has jurisdiction over the defendant and that service of the summons and complaint was effectuated. Requires the court to take evidence and authorizes the court to conduct a hearing and receive oral testimony if requested by either party. Requires an unlawful detainer complaint to include information describing the date, time, and location of effectuated service of the termination notice. (BPC amend 22355; CIV amend 415.20, 415.45, 417.10, 417.40, 473, 473.5, 585; CCP add 473.2, amend 1162, 1166)

AB 863 (Kalra), CH. 344

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Residential rental properties: language requirements

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 that includes specified information in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean. Requires the Judicial Council to publish this form on its website. (CCP amend 412.20)

AB 1084 (Zbur), CH. 723***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Change of name and gender and sex identifier**

Streamlines the process for legally changing one's name, including a change of name to match a person's gender identity by (1) deleting existing law's procedures whereby a person may object to an adult's petition for a change of name for a period of six weeks after the petition is filed with the court; (2) requiring the court to enter an order approving of an adult's petition for a change of name within six weeks of receiving the petition; (3) requiring a court to enter an order approving of a minor's petition for a change of name within six weeks of receiving the petition if all the minor's living parents have signed the petition; and (4) if a minor's petition for a change of name is not signed by all living parents, requiring the court to direct all persons interested in the matter to make known any objection to the change of name by filing a written objection, which includes any reasons for the objection, within four weeks of the date of the order. Additionally provides that a court may only deny a minor's petition for a change of name in the presence of good cause, which cannot be based solely on concerns that the proposed change is not the petitioner's actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth. Makes these provisions operative on July 1, 2026. (CCP amend, repeal, and add 1277.5; HSC amend, repeal, and add 103430, 103431, 103435)

AB 1370 (Patterson), CH. 191***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****State Legislature: nondisclosure agreements**

Prohibits members of the Legislature, acting in their official capacity, from entering into, or requesting that another individual enter into, a nondisclosure agreement relating to the drafting, negotiation, or discussion of proposed legislation, and provides that any such nondisclosure agreement entered into or requested by a member of the Legislature after the effective date of this legislation shall be void and unenforceable. (GOV add 8923)

AB 1466 (Hart), CH. 643***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Groundwater adjudication**

Permits a court, in an action to adjudicate groundwater rights, to exempt or treat separately a claimant who extracts or diverts minor quantities of water. Requires the initial disclosure to additionally include information relating to agricultural use. Requires a court to request that the groundwater sustainability agency provide a technical report that quantifies and describes the groundwater uses of a party that has not otherwise appeared before the court. (CCP amend 833, 840, 842, 845)

AB 1523 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 201

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Court-ordered mediation

Increases, as of January 1, 2027, the dollar amount of a controversy limitation to \$75,000 and imposes additional requirements, such as there being no ongoing discovery disputes and at least one party notifying the court of an interest in mediation, to be met before a court may order a civil action into mediation. Requires the court, if the parties do not stipulate to a mutually agreeable mediator, to select a mediator at no cost to the parties. Requires court-ordered mediation to conclude with a mutually acceptable statement of agreement or nonagreement. (CCP amend 1775.5)

SB 26 (Umberg), CH. 1

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Civil actions: restitution for or replacement of a new motor vehicle

Modifies the 2024 changes to Lemon Law procedure to specify that the procedures apply to a manufacturer of a motor vehicle only if the manufacturer elects to be governed by those procedures by reporting the election to the Arbitration Certification Program within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Requires a manufacturer that wishes to make this election regarding its motor vehicles sold in the year 2025 and all prior years to make the election within 30 days after the effective date of this bill. Thereafter, requires a manufacturer that wishes to make this election to make an irrevocable election regarding motor vehicles sold during the five calendar years following the date of the election. Requires the Arbitration Certification Program within the Department of Consumer Affairs, by December 15 of each year, to publish on its website a list of the manufacturers that have elected to be governed by the procedures described above for a period that includes the following calendar year. (CCP amend 871.20, 871.24, add 871.29, 871.30)

SB 37 (Umberg), CH. 645

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Attorneys: unlawful solicitations and advertisements

Creates a private right of action to enforce violations of existing prohibitions on misleading attorney advertisements, attorney solicitations, and the use of referral services. Prohibits advertisements by attorneys from containing or referring to misleading, deceptive, or false statements, words, or phrases regarding a lawyer's or a law firm's skills, experience, or record. Prohibits an advertisement from containing references to a lawyer's or a law firm's recognition by, or awards from, an organization, unless the recognition or award is not conferred by virtue of being a member of the organization and the organization does not charge or solicit a fee, cost, or payment for the recognition or award. (BPC 6153, 6155, 6157, 6157.2, 6158.4, 6158.7, add 6156.5)

SB 59 (Wiener), CH. 738

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Change of name or gender and sex identifier

Expands existing confidentiality protections for minors seeking a judgment recognizing a name or gender change to all petitioners regardless of age. Makes court records associated with a proceeding for a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both, confidential. Requires 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, to be kept confidential by the court. Applies if the petition is filed on or after July 1, 2026, if the court orders the records in the proceeding to be kept confidential upon the request of the petitioner for petitions filed before that date, or if the records in the proceeding were previously made confidential by statute or otherwise. Requires the court to limit access to the court records in these proceedings to certain individuals. Prohibits a confidential record from being posted publicly on the internet or otherwise by a person or private entity other than the petitioner. Provides, commencing six months after the operative date of this law, that a petitioner who has been harmed by a disclosure of records by a private person or entity with actual knowledge that those records were made confidential or sealed by the court may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against a private person or entity that caused the harm. (HSC repeal and add 103437)

SB 66 (Umberg), CH. 50

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Civil discovery

Removes the January 1, 2027, repeal date of the Civil Discovery Act, which generally requires each party that appears in a civil action to provide certain initial disclosures to the other parties to the action within 60 days of a demand by any party to the action. Requires disclosure of information and records regarding insurance policies or contracts that would make a person or insurance company liable to satisfy a judgment, and requires initial disclosures to be verified via the written declaration of the party or the party's authorized representative or signed by the party's counsel. (CCP amend 2016.090)

SB 82 (Umberg), CH. 350

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Contracts: consumer goods and services: dispute resolution provisions

Prohibits dispute resolution terms and conditions of a consumer use agreement from extending beyond the use, payment, or provision of the good, service, money, or credit provided by that consumer use agreement. (CIV add 1670.15)

SB 85 (Umberg), CH. 403

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Civil actions: service of summons

Authorizes a court to direct a summons to be served in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give actual notice to the party if a plaintiff, exercising reasonable diligence, has been unable to serve the summons using methods prescribed by statute. Authorizes a court, upon motion, to direct service of the summons by electronic means, if such service is reasonably calculated to give actual notice. Requires a plaintiff seeking to establish reasonable diligence to set forth facts that detail the attempts to effect service under the methods prescribed by statute. Excludes actions against public entities or agents or employees of public entities from its provisions. (CCP amend 413.30)

SB 236 (Weber Pierson), CH. 598

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Cosmetics: chemical hair relaxers

Makes the unlawful manufacturing, selling, delivering, holding, or offering for sale in commerce of a hair relaxer product containing any prohibited ingredients punishable by a civil penalty, by an administrative penalty, or both, by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. (HSC add 108985 et seq.)

SB 261 (Wahab), CH. 747

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Division of Labor Standards Enforcement: orders, decisions, and awards

Makes an employer liable for a civil penalty of up to three times the outstanding judgment amount if a final judgment from the nonpayment of wages remains unsatisfied after a period of 180 days. Prescribes how the penalties assessed are to be distributed and used, and requires a court to award a prevailing plaintiff specified fees and costs in any action brought by a judgment creditor, the Labor Commissioner, or a public prosecutor to enforce a final judgment against an employer. (LAB amend 98.2, add 238.05, 238.10)

SB 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas), CH. 216

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Employment: bias mitigation training: unlawful discrimination

Prevents the submission of evidence of a public employee's assessment, testing, admission, or acknowledgment of personal bias that was required or solicited as part of a bias mitigation training in specified civil actions against a public employee or employer. (GOV add 12940.2)

SB 497 (Wiener), CH. 764

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Legally protected health-care activity

Prohibits a health-care provider, a health-care service plan, or a contractor from releasing medical information related to a person seeking or obtaining gender-affirming health care or gender-affirming mental health care in response to a criminal or civil action. This includes a foreign subpoena based on another state's law that interferes with an individual's right to seek or obtain gender-affirming health care or gender-affirming mental health care. Prohibits these entities from releasing medical information related to sensitive services in response to a foreign subpoena that is based on a violation of another state's laws authorizing a criminal action against a person or entity for provision or receipt of legally protected health-care activity. Prohibits the issuance of a subpoena based on a violation of another state's law that interferes with a person's right to seek or obtain gender-affirming health care or gender-affirming mental health care. (CIV amend 56.109; CCP amend 2029.300, 2029.350; HSC amend 11165; PEN amend 1326)

SB 683 (Cortese), CH. 590

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Privacy: use of a person's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness: injunctive relief

Provides that a party seeking relief for the unlawful use of their name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness in products, merchandise, or goods, or for purposes of advertising or selling, or soliciting purchases of, products, merchandise, goods, or services may also seek an injunction or temporary restraining order in addition to damages. (CIV amend 3344)

SB 763 (Hurtado), CH. 426

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Conspiracy against trade: punishment

Increases the fine for a corporate violator of the Cartwright Act from \$1 million to \$6 million. Increases the fine for an individual violator from \$250,000 to \$1 million. Imposes an additional civil penalty of \$1 million on a person, corporation, or business entity violating the act. (BPC amend 16755, add 16755.1, 16762)

SB 786 (Arreguín), CH. 526

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Planning and zoning: general plan: judicial challenges

Limits the period for which a court may continue a trial or hearing on a challenge to a city general plan to no more than 60 days. Authorizes a court to grant one continuance on the court's own motion. Requires a court to grant temporary relief in any instance in which the court orders a continuance rather than only if the court grants a continuance to a respondent. Requires the court to consider ordering additional temporary relief if the court has already granted temporary relief. (GOV amend 65587, 65700, 65753, 65754, 65755, 65757, 65759, add 65585.02)

SB 808 (Caballero), CH. 527***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Civil actions: writs: housing development projects**

Provides expedited judicial review for denials of permits or other entitlements for housing development projects or residential units at the trial and appellate level. Authorizes a petitioner, the Attorney General, or the Department of Housing and Community Development to file a petition for writ of mandate under these provisions. Requires that a hearing be set no later than 45 days after the filing of the writ; and requires the court to issue a decision no later than 30 days after the matter is submitted or 75 days after the writ was filed, whichever is earlier. Authorizes the temporary assignment of judicial officers to meet the timelines. (CCP add 46, 1094.9)

Collaborative Courts

AB 1037 (Elhawary), CH. 569***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Public health: substance use disorder**

Repeals provisions of existing law that require a person to receive training from an opioid overdose prevention and treatment training program to administer naloxone. Prohibits the Department of Health Care Services from requiring an alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment facility admission agreement to require a person to have been abstinent, to not be intoxicated, or to otherwise not be under the influence to be admitted into care, be considered for treatment, or continue treatment. Additionally, repeals existing law that prohibits any state-funded program from allocating funds to programs that do not use abstinence-only messaging about illegal drugs. (CIV amend 1714.22; HSC amend 1797.197, 11372.7, 11834.01, 11834.026, 11834.26, 11999, and 11999.1, repeal 11999.2, and repeal and add 11999 et seq.)

AB 1258 (Kalra), CH. 394***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Deferred entry of judgment pilot program**

Extends operation of a deferred entry of judgment pilot program for eligible defendants who are 18 to 21 years of age in the Counties of Butte, Nevada, and Santa Clara to January 1, 2029. (PEN amend 1000.7)

SB 857 (Committee on Public Safety), CH. 241***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Public safety omnibus**

Makes technical changes to various code sections relating generally to criminal justice laws. Clarifies cross-references to mental health diversion for when a court is determining whether to refer a defendant found incompetent to stand trial to diversion. (BPC amend 7583.7, 7598.2;

EDC amend 49428.2, 49428.15, 56366.1; FAM amend 6389; GOV amend 7286, 8589.11, 8589.15, 12838, 12838.6, 13332.09, 14612, 20403; HSC amend 1180.2, 1180.4, 1250.10, 1522.41, 1562.01, 1563, 127825; LAB amend 6401.8; PEN amend 311.2, 835a, 1171, 1202.4, 1370–1370.01, 1463.007, 1473.1, 2052, 2056, 2700, 2701, 2716.5, 2800–2802, 2804, 2806, 2808, 2810.5, 2811, 2816–2818, 4497.50, 4497.52, 4497.54, 4497.56, 6025, 6202, 13511.1, 13515.26–13515.28, 13515.30, 13515.295, 13519.10, 13652–13652.1, 18108, add 2800.5; PCC amend 6108, 10103.5, 10332, 12217; PRC amend 4953, 42989.2.1; PUC amend 99243; UIC amend 1095; VEH amend 1808.4, 5072; WIC amend 755, 786, 788, 16001.9, 16527, 16529, 18358.10, 18358.20, 18358.30, 18360.10, 18999.93)

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

SB 27 (Umberg), CH. 528

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act

Authorizes a court, after a defendant has been declared incompetent to stand trial for a misdemeanor offense, to simultaneously consider their eligibility for both diversion and the CARE program. Allows the court to conduct an initial appearance on a CARE petition at the same time as the prima facie determination of CARE qualification, if specified requirements are met. Expands CARE to cover persons suffering from bipolar I disorder with psychotic features, except psychosis related to current intoxication, as a qualifying disorder. Allows a court to refer an individual from assisted outpatient therapy, or Lanterman-Petris-Short conservatorship, or in a proceeding finding them to be incompetent to stand trial for a misdemeanor or incompetent to stand trial for a felony to CARE Act court. Provides that the CARE Act court may consider a referral as a CARE Act petition if the referral contained all the information required by law to be included in a CARE Act petition. (PEN amend 1370.01, WIC amend 5971, 5972, 5975, 5977, 5977.1, 5977.3, 5978, 5985)

Court Facilities

AB 136 (Committee on Budget), CH. 11

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Courts

For discussion of bill, see page 3.

SB 673 (Ochoa Bogh), CH. 75***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Courthouse construction: filing fee surcharges**

Extends the authority for San Bernardino Superior Court to collect a \$35 surcharge on court filings to pay for existing bonds used to pay for the Central San Bernardino Courthouse to match the 30-year duration of the bond debt. This extension was necessary because AB 1984 (Maienschein; Stats. 2020, ch. 210), an omnibus bill that contained a number of changes enacting the California Law Revision Commission's recommendations related to code maintenance required by trial court consolidation, inadvertently added the sunset date of January 1, 2026, on San Bernardino County's authority (SB 35 (Baca); Stats. 1999, ch. 150)) to charge the \$35 fee that pays for the debt service on the seismic retrofit bond for the county's historic courthouse, which was built in 1926 and sits on a fault line. (GOV amend 70624)

Court Interpreters

AB 792 (Lee), CH. 277***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****Court interpreters**

Authorizes a recognized employee organization to request multiregional bargaining if more than one region is bargaining in a calendar year and it is mutually agreed to by the regional court interpreter employment relations committee. (GOV amend 71808)

Court Operations

AB 268 (Kalra), CH. 358***Effective Date: January 1, 2026*****State holidays: Diwali**

Adds Diwali to the list of state holidays in section 6700 of the Government Code. Adds Diwali to the list of state holidays exempt from designation as a judicial holiday in Code of Civil Procedure section 135. Authorizes state employees to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for Diwali as an optional holiday in lieu of eight hours of personal holiday credit. State offices and courts will remain open on Diwali. (CCP amend 135; EDC amend 37220.7, 45203, 79020, 88203; GOV amend 6700, 19853, 19853.1)

AB 561 (Quirk-Silva), CH. 267

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Restraining orders

Authorizes a protective order for civil harassment, domestic violence, or protection of an elder or dependent adult, and any related filings, to be submitted electronically. Requires the request, notice of the court date, copies of the request to serve on the respondent, and the temporary restraining order, if granted, to be provided to the petitioner electronically if they filed electronically, unless the petitioner notes, at the time of electronic filing, that the documents will be picked up from the court. Authorizes a party or witness to appear remotely at the hearing on the petition for a protective order, and prohibits the superior court from charging a fee for the remote appearance. Requires the superior court of each county to develop and post on its website local rules and instructions regarding remote appearances for protective orders. Authorizes a court to permit an alternative method of service if at the time of a hearing, with respect to an order issued based on an ex parte temporary protective order, the court determines that the petitioner has been unable to accomplish personal service after diligent effort and that there is reason to believe that the restrained party is evading service or cannot be located. Delays the implementation of all the above requirements until January 1, 2027. (CCP amend 527.6; FAM amend 6307, 6308; GOV amend 6103.2; WIC amend 15657.03)

AB 1524 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 306

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Courts: fees

States public electronic records shall be viewable at the court. Allows the public to use their own equipment to copy court records at no charge but places restrictions related to protecting the integrity of the record. Prohibits access to secure networks, does not require staff to help operate the equipment, and does not obstruct others from accessing court services. Allows the court to impose reasonable limits on requests as long as they are equivalent to limits placed on requests to inspect court records. By December 1, 2027, requires the Judicial Council to submit a report to the Legislature on fees charged by each court in the 2026–27 fiscal year, including fee amount, cost to provide a particular service, revenue collected as a result of each fee, and the number of persons served related to each fee-based service or product. (GOV amend 68150, 70631)

SB 245 (Reyes), CH. 746

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Criminal procedure

Requires California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and county authorities to certify to the court, in the county where the defendant was sentenced, that they successfully participated in the California Conservation Camp program as an incarcerated individual hand crew member or at an institution firehouse. (PEN amend 1203.4b)

Court Records

AB 243 (Ahrens), CH. 610

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Postsecondary education: student financial aid dependency status: juveniles

For discussion of bill, see page 5.

AB 1524 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 306

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Courts: fees

For discussion of bill, see page 22.

SB 59 (Wiener), CH. 738

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Change of name or gender and sex identifier

For discussion of bill, see page 16.

SB 245 (Reyes), CH. 746

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Criminal procedure

For discussion of bill, see page 22.

Criminal Law and Procedure

AB 309 (Zbur), CH. 685

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Hypodermic needles and syringes

Deletes the January 1, 2026, sunset provision for the exemption allowing pharmacists to possess and distribute hypodermic needles and syringes. (BPC amend 4145.5; HSC amend 11364)

AB 321 (Schultz), CH. 611

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Misdemeanors

Allows the court to reduce a felony to a misdemeanor at any time prior to trial instead of prior to or at the preliminary hearing. States that if there is a denial of such motion, a subsequent motion may be brought upon a showing of a change of circumstances, including newly available facts relevant to the charge or defendant's circumstances or a change in the applicable law.

(PEN amend 17)

AB 352 (Pacheco), CH. 554

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: criminal threats

Authorizes courts to consider, as a factor in aggravation, when sentencing a defendant convicted of a criminal threat, whether the defendant knew the victim was a judge or other specified public official. (PEN amend 422)

AB 379 (Schultz), CH. 82

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: prostitution

Increases the penalty for solicitation of a minor in specified circumstances. Makes it a misdemeanor to loiter with the intent to purchase commercial sex. Uses funds from criminal fines and civil penalties to support grants to organizations that provide services to victims of sex trafficking and exploitation. Creates a human trafficking vertical prosecution grant program, and requires a defendant to complete an education program as a condition of probation. Authorizes the Attorney General's civil enforcement of specified trafficking-related violations. (CIV amend 52.6, 52.65; PEN amend 647, 647.5, 653.25, add 13849 et seq.)

AB 461 (Ahrens), CH. 154

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Truancy

Eliminates the Penal Code section subjecting parents of students who are chronically truant to criminal penalties. (PEN repeal 270.1)

AB 468 (Gabriel), CH. 533

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: looting

Makes several changes related to looting offenses during times of natural or human-made disaster. States that damage to a structure does not preclude conviction for burglary of the structure. Defines certain terms related to looting, and imposes increased penalties for specified looting offenses occurring in evacuation zones. (PEN amend 459, add 463)

AB 561 (Quirk-Silva), CH. 267

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Restraining orders

For discussion of bill, see page 22.

AB 848 (Soria), CH. 625

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Sexual battery

Creates a factor in aggravation for sentencing purposes in a sexual battery case if the defendant was employed in a hospital and the victim was obtaining medical care from the hospital. (PEN amend 243.4)

AB 1071 (Kalra), CH. 721

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Criminal procedure: discrimination

For discussion of bill, see page 1.

AB 1087 (Patterson), CH. 180

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated

States that the length of the probationary period for specified vehicular manslaughter offenses shall be between three and five years. (PEN amend 191.5)

AB 1094 (Bains), CH. 631

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: torture of a minor: parole

Makes a defendant convicted of torture ineligible for parole until they have served seven years. If the defendant tortured a minor who was 14 years old or younger, of whom they had care or custody, they will be ineligible for parole until they have served 10 years of their sentence, as specified. (PEN amend 206.1)

AB 1134 (Bains), CH. 633

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Coerced marriage

Beginning January 1, 2027, allows a court to grant permission for annulment petitions filed beyond the current statutory limit if the party's consent was obtained by force and the court finds good cause to grant the nullity. Additionally, amends the existing coerced marriage statute to make it gender-neutral and specifies that it applies regardless of the age of the victim of a forced marriage. (FAM amend, repeal, and add 2211; PEN amend 265)

AB 1258 (Kalra), CH. 394

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Deferred entry of judgment pilot program.

For discussion of bill, see page 19.

AB 1363 (Stefani), CH. 574

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Protective orders: Wyland’s Law

Authorizes the Department of Justice to establish, or contract with a vendor to establish, an automated protected person information and notification system to provide a petitioner or a protected person in a protective order case with automated access to information about their case, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature. Requires a record demonstrating whether the superior court has fulfilled its existing transmission obligations or a record demonstrating receipt of information about a protective order that the Department of Justice maintains to be open to public inspection and copying. (FAM add 6380.5)

SB 258 (Wahab), CH. 599

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: rape

Expands the crime of rape to include cases where a person has sexual intercourse with their spouse if the spouse cannot “legally consent” due to a mental disorder, developmental disability, or physical disability. (PEN amend 261)

SB 281 (Pérez), CH. 666

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Pleas: immigration advisement

States that the immigration advisement administered by courts during a guilty or no-contest plea must be given verbatim. Clarifies that for pleas accepted prior to January 1, 2026, failure to administer the advisement verbatim does not require withdrawal of the plea. Further clarifies that nothing in the section inhibits a court, in exercising its discretion, from vacating a judgment and permitting a defendant to withdraw their plea, as otherwise authorized by law. (PEN amend 1016.5)

SB 524 (Arreguín), CH. 587

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Law enforcement agencies: artificial intelligence

For discussion of bill, see page 1.

SB 571 (Archuleta), CH. 545

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Emergencies: crimes

Creates a new crime of impersonating a first responder during a state of emergency. Makes it a sentencing factor in aggravation if the defendant impersonated emergency personnel during a state of emergency. (PEN amend 451.5; add 463.2, 538i)

SB 627 (Wiener), CH. 125

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Law enforcement: masks

Prohibits any city, county, or other local agency that employs a peace officer, any law enforcement agency of another state, or any federal law enforcement agency operating in California from wearing a facial covering in the performance of their duties, except as specified. Requires such law enforcement agencies to develop and post a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings by July 1, 2026. (GOV add 7289; PEN add 185.5)

SB 680 (Rubio), CH. 780

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Sex offender registration: unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor

Requires, for offenses occurring on or after January 1, 2026, a defendant convicted of statutory rape to register as a sex offender if the defendant was three or more years older than the victim or if the defendant was 21 years of age or older and the victim was under 16 years of age. Authorizes the court to make the registration determination if the defendant is less than 10 years older than the minor. (PEN amend 290)

SB 734 (Caballero), CH. 784

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Criminal procedure: discrimination

States that if a defendant is represented by an attorney and is bringing forth a motion or habeas petition claiming a specified Racial Justice Act (RJA) violation by a peace officer, the attorney must serve the law enforcement agency. Also, for such RJA claims brought as a vacatur motion, requires the defendant to serve the law enforcement agency. (PEN amend 745, 1473, 1473.7)

SB 857 (Committee on Public Safety), CH. 241

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Public safety omnibus

For discussion of bill, see page 19.

Domestic Violence

AB 451 (Petrie-Norris), CH. 693

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Law enforcement policies: restraining orders

Requires law enforcement agencies to develop, adopt, and implement written policies and standards to promote safe, consistent, and effective service, implementation, and enforcement of

court protective and restraining orders by January 1, 2027. These must include firearm access restrictions, civil harassment restraining orders, criminal protective orders, domestic violence restraining orders, emergency protective orders, juvenile restraining orders, postsecondary school violence restraining orders, workplace violence restraining orders, and elder or dependent adult abuse restraining orders. (PEN add 13667)

AB 779 (Lackey), CH. 381

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Child welfare services: domestic violence consultant pilot program

For discussion of bill, see page 7.

AB 1363 (Stefani), CH. 564

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Protective orders: Wyland’s Law

For discussion of bill, see page 26.

SB 50 (Ashby), CH. 676

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Connected devices: device protection requests

Requires account managers of connected devices to provide a process for survivors or their representatives to terminate or disable perpetrators’ access to such devices through a device protection request with specified documentation from survivors of covered acts, as defined. Deems a perpetrator that maintains or exercises device or account access despite having their device or account access denied in violation of this provision. Authorizes enforcement actions to be brought by any person injured by a violation or by a public prosecutor. Authorizes a court to enjoin a person or entity who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in a violation and provides that a person or entity who engages in a violation shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per violation for each connected device. Amends the definition of “disturbing the peace of the other party” for purposes of securing a domestic violence protective order to include conduct committed through a connected device. (BPC add 22948.30 et seq.; FAM amend 6320)

Family Law

AB 343 (Pacheco), CH. 142

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

California Public Records Act: elected or appointed officials

For discussion of bill, see page 6.

AB 495 (C. Rodriguez), CH. 664

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025

Modifies the definition of “relative,” for purposes of the *Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit*, to mean an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including all stepparents, stepsiblings, all relatives whose status is preceded by the words “great,” “great-great,” or “grand,” or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution. Authorizes courts to issue joint guardianships to a custodial parent and a nominated individual while the parent is temporarily unavailable. (EDC amend 234.7; FAM amend 6550, 6552; PROB amend 1502, 2105)

AB 515 (Pacheco), CH. 559

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Trial: statement of decision

For discussion of bill, see page 12.

AB 1134 (Bains), CH. 633

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Coerced marriage

For discussion of bill, see page 25.

AB 1297 (Stefani), CH. 48

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Automatic temporary restraining orders

Starting January 1, 2027, adds to a temporary restraining order entered in a proceeding for nullification or dissolution of a marriage, or legal separation, a prohibition on allowing insurance coverage to lapse for nonpayment of premiums or failure to renew when the policy is for the benefit of parties to the marriage or minor children for whom support may be ordered. (FAM amend, repeal, and add 2040)

AB 1375 (Hoover), CH. 452

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Consideration when determining child custody: human trafficking

Requires the court, when making a determination of the best interests of a child in a child custody matter, to consider any relevant, admissible evidence that a parent has caused human trafficking of the child or other parent. (FAM amend 3040.5)

AB 1521 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 200

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Committee on Judiciary: judiciary omnibus

Makes numerous technical updates to codes within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee, including requiring the Department of Child Support Services to receive notice of probate petitions if the general personal representative or estate attorney knows or has reason to believe the decedent had a child support obligation. The local child support agency providing services may assert a claim no later than four months after receiving notice. Allows petitions to establish a record of birth, death, or marriage to be filed in juvenile court if they have jurisdiction of the minor or nonminor, and prohibits any associated filing fees. (BPC amend 10147.5; CIV amend 1785.27, 1788.2, 2924.18, 2924(f), 1798.84.1; CCP amend 697.530, 1141.30, 1710.45, 2016.040, 2023.010, 2030.020, 2031.020, 2033.020; CORP amend 15800; GOV amend 12974, repeal 7928.210, 7928.215, 7928.220, 7928.225, 7928.230; HSC amend 103470; PEN add 76.5, PROB amend 9202; WIC amend 319)

SB 85 (Umberg), CH. 403

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Civil actions: service of summons

For discussion of bill, see page 17.

SB 450 (Menjivar), CH. 757

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Adoption

Clarifies that California state courts have jurisdiction over a proceeding for the adoption of a minor if the minor was born in this state and either of the following applies: A proceeding to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents is not required to make the minor available for adoption, or the proceeding to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents to make the minor available for adoption is being brought in this state. Additionally requires an adoption order to include the names of the adoptive parent or parents and any existing parent who will maintain their parental rights after the finalization of the adoption. Clarifies that a failure to include an existing parent or parents on the adoption order in compliance with this provision shall not be construed to terminate the parental rights and responsibilities otherwise maintained under existing law by an existing parent or parents. Requires a petitioner for an independent adoption to be responsible for providing any additional documentation or information necessary to complete an adoption investigation, if the out-of-state home study report is not substantially commensurate with California standards or is otherwise missing required information. (FAM add 8626, amend 8807, 9210)

Fines, Fees, Penalties, Collections, Distributions

AB 45 (Bauer-Kahan), CH. 134

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Privacy: health data: location and research

For discussion of bill, see page 10.

AB 379 (Schultz), CH. 82

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: prostitution

For discussion of bill, see page 24.

AB 1213 (Stefani), CH. 184

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Restitution: priority

Clarifies that a restitution order is to be paid before all fines, restitution fines, penalty assessments, and other fees imposed on a criminal defendant. (PEN amend 1202.4)

AB 1376 (Bonta), CH. 575

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Wards: probation

Creates a rebuttable presumption that probation should not extend beyond 12 months, and allows the presumption to be overcome by a preponderance of evidence that it is in the ward's and the public's best interest. Requires the court to state the reasons for the findings orally on the record in cases in which the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, a basis for extending probation. Requires the court to set forth the reasons in an order entered on the minutes if requested by either party or when the proceedings are not being recorded electronically or transcribed by a court reporter. Requires the court to hold noticed hearings for the ward at least every six months for the remainder of the wardship period if the court extends probation. Provides that these requirements do not apply to wards in a juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp or in a foster care placement. Amends several provisions of law requiring the juvenile court to impose specific conditions of probation on a ward of the court, and instead makes all of those conditions of probation discretionary. Removes the \$250 ceiling the court can charge a ward for restitution as well as the payment being directed to the county treasury and requirement for the court to find financial ability to pay. (WIC add 602.05, amend 729, 729.1, 729.2, 729.6, 729.8, 729.9, 730, 742.16)

AB 1521 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 200

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Committee on Judiciary: judiciary omnibus

For discussion of bill, see page 30.

AB 1524 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 306

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Courts: fees

For discussion of bill, see page 22.

SB 54 (Umberg), CH. 646

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Court fee waivers: veterans

Provides that veterans disability service-connected compensation is not to be treated as part of a litigant's monthly income when establishing if a person qualifies for a waiver of court fees.
(GOV amend 68632)

SB 132 (Committee on Budget), CH. 17

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Taxation

For discussion of bill, see page 4

SB 673 (Ochoa Bogh), CH. 75

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Courthouse construction: filing fee surcharges

For discussion of bill, see page 21.

Indian Child Welfare Act/Tribal Court

AB 134 (Committee on Budget), CH. 10

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Public safety

For discussion of bill, see page 2.

AB 562 (Solache), CH. 436

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Foster care: placement: family finding

For discussion of bill, see page 6.

Judicial Officers/Judicial Elections

AB 343 (Pacheco), CH. 142

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

California Public Records Act: elected or appointed officials

For discussion of bill, see page 6.

AB 352 (Pacheco), CH. 554

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: criminal threats

For discussion of bill, see page 24.

AB 953 (Pacheco), CH. 170

Effective/Operative Date: January 1, 2026

Political Reform Act of 1974: contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals

Prohibits a foreign national, other than a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient, from making campaign contributions or expenditures in state and local elections. (GOV amend 85320)

AB 1286 (Boerner), CH. 186

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Political Reform Act of 1974: prospective employment

Requires that elected officials and other high-ranking state and local officials disclose arrangements for prospective employment in their statements of economic interest. (GOV add 82004.2, 87207.5, amend 87202–87204)

AB 1513 (Committee on Elections), CH. 304

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Election procedures: certified mail and superior courts.

Replaces the term “trial court” with “superior court” in provisions of the Elections Code related to the recall process, and makes related conforming and clarifying changes. Replaces the use of registered mail with electronic or certified mail for elections-related communications. (ELEC amend 12, 5200, 11000–11004, 11221, 13113, 15621, 16442, 16462, 16464)

AB 1521 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 200

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Committee on Judiciary: judiciary omnibus

For discussion of bill, see page 30.

ACA 8 (Rivas), CH. 156

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Congressional redistricting

Establishes the Election Rigging Response Act, which suspends the Citizens Redistricting Commission boundary lines until the year 2031, institutes a new temporary congressional district map, and confers original and exclusive jurisdiction to the California Supreme Court for any challenges related to new congressional district map. (CONS add art. XXI, section 4)

Juries

SB 645 (Umberg), CH. 656

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Juries: peremptory challenges

Makes the statute governing peremptory challenges in criminal cases permanent, applies the statute to specified civil cases, and requires the party bringing forth the claim in one of the specified civil cases to notify the court and the other parties of the statute's applicability. (CCP amend 231.7)

Juvenile Justice

AB 118 (Committee on Budget), CH. 7

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Human services

For discussion of bill, see page 2.

AB 134 (Committee on Budget), CH. 10

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Public safety

For discussion of bill, see page 2.

AB 243 (Ahrens), CH. 610

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Postsecondary education: student financial aid dependency status: juveniles

For discussion of bill, see page 5.

AB 383 (Davies), CH. 362

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Firearms: prohibition: minors

Expands exemptions to the prohibition against the purchase and possession of firearms by minors for specified activities related to hunting education. Applies existing postconviction firearm relinquishment procedures to minors adjudicated to have committed a crime and individuals subject to specified restraining orders, and authorizes the issuance of a search warrant for minors unlawfully in possession of a firearm. (PEN amend 1524, 29615, 29810, 29820)

AB 461 (Ahrens), CH.154

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Truancy

For discussion of bill, see page 24.

AB 1376 (Bonta), CH. 575

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Wards: probation

For discussion of bill, see page 31.

AB 1521 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 200

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Committee on Judiciary: judiciary omnibus

For discussion of bill, see page 30.

SB 413 (Allen), CH. 221

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Juveniles: case file inspection

For discussion of bill, see page 9.

SB 459 (Grayson), CH. 456

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Peace officers: confidential communications: exceptions: group peer support services

Allows law enforcement personnel the right to refuse to disclose, and prevent another from disclosing, confidential communications between the law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member or another law enforcement personnel. Adds juvenile delinquency proceedings to the list of exemptions that allow the disclosure of a confidential communication. (GOV amend 8669.3, 8669.4)

SB 624 (Caballero), CH. 230

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Nonminor dependents: tax guidance

For discussion of bill, see page 9.

SB 857 (Committee on Public Safety), CH. 241

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Public safety omnibus

For discussion of bill, see page 19.

Labor and Employment

AB 288 (McKinnor), CH. 139

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Employment: labor organization and unfair practices

States that specified employees have a right to collective bargaining, free from retaliation or intimidation by their employer. Expands the jurisdiction of the Public Employment Relations Board to allow cases to be heard at the state level instead of by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) when the NLRB has failed to adjudicate, respond to appeal petitions, or issue final decisions within 12 months. (LAB add 923.1, 1140.6, amend 1141, 1148)

AB 406 (Schiavo), CH. 148

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Employment: unlawful discrimination: victims of violence

For discussion of bill, see page 12.

AB 692 (Kalra), CH. 703

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Employment: contracts in restraint of trade

Makes it unlawful to include in any employment contract, or to require a worker to execute as a condition of employment or a work relationship a contract that includes, specified contract terms that require a worker to assume a debt if the employment is terminated, except as provided.

Provides a private right of action for violations. (BPC add 16608; LAB add 926)

AB 792 (Lee), CH. 277

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Court interpreters

For discussion of bill, see page 21.

AB 1067 (Quirk-Silva), CH. 388

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Public employees' retirement: felony convictions

Requires a public employer that is investigating a public employee for misconduct, as specified, to continue the investigation after the employee's retirement if it indicates they may have committed a crime. Requires the investigation be referred to law enforcement prior to closing the investigation, and requires the employee forfeit any accrued pension rights and benefits if a felony conviction arises out of any specified conduct. (GOV add 7522.76)

AB 1155 (Fong), CH. 292

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Law schools: externships: compensation

Requires each American Bar Association–accredited and California-accredited law school at the University of California or an independent institution of higher education, as defined, to allow students to receive compensation from an externship site while concurrently earning course credit. (EDC add 66550, 66550.5, 66551)

SB 294 (Reyes), CH. 667

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Workplace Know Your Rights Act

On or before February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, requires employers to provide a standalone written notice of workers' rights to each current employee and each new employee upon hire. Notice must be provided in a manner normally used to communicate employment-related information and in a language understood by the employee. Must contain information on disability pay, workers' compensation benefits, right of notice of inspection by immigration agencies, unfair immigration-related practices against a person exercising protected rights, right

to organize, and constitutional rights when interacting with law enforcement at the workplace. Other requirements are placed on the labor commissioner, including a requirement to develop materials for employer use and make them available online. (LAB add 1550 et seq.)

SB 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas), CH. 216

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Employment: bias mitigation training: unlawful discrimination

For discussion of bill, see page 17.

SB 513 (Durazo), CH. 654

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Personnel records

Expands the scope of personnel records that a current and former employee or their representative has a right to inspect and receive a copy of to include education or training records. Requires those records to include specified information about the training. (LAB amend 1198.5)

SB 521 (Gonzalez), CH. 92

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Public employment: disqualification

Adds conflict of interest to the list of felony convictions that disqualifies a public employee from public employment for five years and a permanent disqualification for city managers or city attorneys. (GOV amend 121.5, add 1021.6)

SB 597 (Cortese), CH. 774

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Labor-related liabilities: direct contractor and subcontractor

Requires a direct contractor making or taking a contract in the state for the erection, construction, alteration, or repair of a building, structure, or other private work to assume, and be liable for, any indebtedness for the performance of labor, as specified. Prohibits a direct contractor from being held liable for the indebtedness with respect to fringe or other benefit contributions if they make contribution payments by joint check. Grants a joint labor–management cooperation committee standing to sue under the liability provision added to the law by the bill. (GOV amend 65912.131, 65913.4, 65913.16; LAB amend 218.8, 218.9)

SB 642 (Limón), CH. 468

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Employment: payment of wages

Amends California's Equal Pay Act by revising the definition of "pay scale" to reference a good faith estimate of the expected pay range of a position upon hire. Increases the statute of limitations on when civil actions can be commenced for violations of the act from two to three years, and entitles an employee to obtain relief for the entire period of time in which a violation exists, up to six years. Specifies what constitutes a cause of action. (LAB amend 432.3, 1197.5)

Mental Health

AB 416 (Krell), CH. 691

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Involuntary commitment

Requires counties to include emergency physicians as one of the practice disciplines who are authorized to cause a person to be taken into custody under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act. (WIC amend 5113, 5121)

SB 27 (Umberg), CH. 528

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

For discussion of bill, see page 20.

SB 258 (Wahab), CH. 599

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Crimes: rape

For discussion of bill, see page 26.

SB 820 (Stern), CH. 330

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Inmates: mental health

Authorizes the administration of antipsychotic medication to individuals confined in jail with a misdemeanor offense who were found incompetent to stand trial upon a court finding by clear and convincing evidence of specified conditions. (PEN add 2603.5, amend 4011.6)

SB 857 (Committee on Public Safety), CH. 241

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Public safety omnibus

For discussion of bill, see page 19.

Probate

AB 251 (Kalra), CH. 433

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Elders and dependent adults: abuse or neglect

For discussion of bill, see page 11.

AB 495 (C. Rodriguez), CH. 664

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025

For discussion of bill, see page 29.

AB 515 (Pacheco), CH. 559

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Trial: statement of decision

For discussion of bill, see page 12.

AB 565 (Dixon), CH. 39

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Representation of trust beneficiaries

Authorizes certain qualifying individuals to legally receive notice on behalf of a trust beneficiary and consent to the action taken, so long as the would-be representative satisfies specified requirements. (PROB repeal and add 15804)

AB 1521 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 200

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Committee on Judiciary: judiciary omnibus

For discussion of bill, see page 30.

SB 376 (Valladares), CH. 410

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Incomplete gift nongrantor trusts: Personal Income Tax Law

Provides that for purposes of determining a taxpayer's gross income, "incomplete gift nongrantor trust" does not include a charitable trust. (RTC amend 17082)

Protective Orders

AB 451 (Petrie-Norris), CH. 693

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Law enforcement policies: restraining orders

For discussion of bill, see page 27.

AB 561 (Quirk-Silva), CH. 267

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Restraining orders

For discussion of bill, see page 22.

AB 1363 (Stefani), CH. 564

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Protective orders: Wyland's Law

For discussion of bill, see page 26.

SB 50 (Ashby), CH. 676

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Connected devices: device protection requests

For discussion of bill, see page 28.

State Bar/Practice of Law

AB 484 (Dixon), CH. 155

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

California bar examination

Requires the Committee of Bar Examiners to provide a report by November 30, 2026, to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar, the Chief Justice of California, and the Assembly and Senate Committees on Judiciary on whether adopting a uniform bar examination would be more

efficient to administer and lower the cost of administration for the State Bar and examinees.
(BPC add and repeal 6046.2)

AB 931 (Kalra), CH. 565

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

State Bar Act: consumer legal funding

Creates a regulatory framework for the litigation financing industry. Prohibits attorneys from directly or indirectly sharing legal fees with an out-of-state alternative business structure until January 1, 2030, unless specified conditions apply. (BPC amend, renumber, and repeal 6156, add 6250 et seq.)

AB 1525 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 137

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Attorneys: discipline: sensitive services

Provides an excluded event, as defined, shall not be grounds for disciplinary action or require an attorney or applicant to report the excluded event to the State Bar, supply evidence that an attorney is culpable of professional misconduct in this state, or serve as grounds to deny admission to the State Bar to an applicant. (BPC 6106.4)

SB 37 (Umberg), CH. 645

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Attorneys: unlawful solicitations and advertisements

For discussion of bill, see page 15.

SB 47 (Umberg), CH. 209

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

February 2025 bar exam: audit

Requires the California State Auditor to conduct an audit of the February 2025 bar exam to evaluate the administration of the exam and how the problems with that exam occurred. Requires the audit to be submitted as soon as possible to the State Bar Board of Trustees, the Chief Justice of California, and to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Judiciary. Requires the State Bar to use existing resources to provide the California State Auditor with the funding necessary to cover the costs of the audit. (BPC amend 6145)

SB 253 (Umberg), CH. 405

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

State Bar of California

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. Clarifies that Committee of Bar

Examiners is subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. Requires the California Lawyers Association or an affiliated 501(c)(3) organization to submit an annual report to the Legislature by January 31 of each year detailing their use of fund revenues received from specified affinity programs as well as a statement of compliance with provisions of law mandating certain funds be transferred to California ChangeLawyers. (BPC amend 6006, 6013.1, 6026.7, 6046.6, 6086.5, 6106.9, 6126.7, 6140, 6141, 6141.3, 6173)

Traffic

AB 289 (Haney), CH. 684

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

State highway work zone speed safety program

Authorizes a pilot program of up to 35 speed safety systems to be operated by Caltrans. Authorizes Caltrans to use automated speed safety cameras to issue civil violations and assess specified penalties for speeding violations within highway work zones to the registered owner of the vehicle. States a person cannot be assessed a civil penalty if they are subject to criminal penalties for the same act. Adds appeal rights for automated speed violations assessed in a state highway work zone as a limited civil case in a state superior court. (GOV amend 70615; VEH add 22445, 22445.1, 22445.2, 22445.3, 22445.4, 22445.5, 22445.6)

AB 366 (Petrie-Norris), CH. 689

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Ignition interlock devices

Extends the sunset of the ignition interlock device pilot program from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2033. (VEH amend 13352, 13352.1, 13352.4, 13353.3, 13353.4, 13353.5, 13353.6, 13353.75, 13386, 13390, 23103.5, 23247, 23573, 23575.3, 23576, 23597)

AB 382 (Berman), CH. 555

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Pedestrian safety: school zones: speed limits

Beginning January 1, 2031, reduces the school zone speed limit from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. Amends definition of “school zone” to mean an area of highway within 500 feet of school grounds and “children are present” to mean when children are entering or leaving the school or when school grounds are in use by children and signage is posted. (VEH amend, repeal, and add 22352, add 22352.5, amend 22358.4, 40802)

AB 390 (Wilson), CH. 58

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Vehicles: highway safety

For discussion of bill, see page 12.

AB 435 (Wilson), CH. 434

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Vehicles: child passenger restraints

Beginning January 1, 2027, amends the definition of “properly restrained by a safety belt” to reference the five-step test. (VEH amend, repeal, and add 27315, 27318, 27360.5, 27363)

AB 544 (Davies), CH. 36

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Electric bicycles: required equipment

Requires an electric bicycle during all hours to be equipped with a red reflector or a solid or flashing red light with a built-in reflector on the rear that is visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. (VEH amend 21201, 21212)

AB 545 (Davies), CH. 37

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Vehicles: electric bicycles

Prohibits a person from selling an application that can modify the speed capability of an electric bicycle. (VEH amend 24016)

AB 965 (Dixon), CH. 65

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Vehicles: electric bicycles

Prohibits selling a class 3 electric bicycle to a person under 16 years of age and establishes a fine threshold of \$250. (VEH add 21212.5)

AB 1085 (Stefani), CH. 179

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

License plates: obstruction or alteration

Prohibits selling, installing, or affixing a shade or tint that obstructs the reading or recognition of a license plate by an electronic device operated by state or local law enforcement, an electronic device operated in connection with a toll road, high-occupancy toll lane, toll bridge, or other toll facility, or a remote emission sensing device, as specified. (VEH amend 22358.6, 22358.7, 22358.8, 22358.9)

SB 128 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), CH. 16

Effective Date: Effective Immediately

Transportation

For discussion of bill, see page 3.

SB 720 (Ashby), CH. 782

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Automated traffic enforcement system programs

Authorizes local governments to operate alternative automated traffic enforcement programs for red light violations. Establishes a series of increasing municipal civil penalties to be assessed and appealed at the local level, with final appeal options through the small claims or traffic division of the superior court. Prohibits the suspension of, revoking of, and assessment of a violation point against a driver's license based on the aforementioned automated traffic enforcement violation. Allows the civil penalty to be assessed against the registered owner of the vehicle. Prohibits the assessment of a civil penalty if the person is subject to a criminal penalty for the same act. (VEH add 21455.9, amend 21455.5, 21455.7, 70615)

APPENDIX A

2025 CHANGES TO CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 260 (Aguiar-Curry), CH. 136 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Sexual and reproductive health care	<p>Prohibits subjecting a healing arts practitioner who is authorized to prescribe, furnish, order, or administer dangerous drugs to civil, criminal, disciplinary, or other administrative action for prescribing, furnishing, ordering, or administering mifepristone or other medication abortion drugs for a use that is different from the use for which that drug has been approved for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or that varies from an approved risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under federal law, as specified. States that the laws of another state or federal actions that interfere with the authority of a healing arts practitioner to take specified actions relating to mifepristone or other medication abortion drugs are against the public policy of this state. Prohibits criminal, civil, professional discipline, or licensing actions against an applicant or licensee for manufacturing, transporting, or engaging in certain other acts relating to mifepristone or other medication abortion drugs. Prohibits criminal, civil, professional discipline, or licensing action against a licensed clinic or health facility for transporting or engaging in certain other acts relating to mifepristone or other medication abortion drugs that are lawful in California.</p>
AB 321 (Schultz), CH. 611 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Misdemeanors	<p>Allows the court to reduce a felony to a misdemeanor at any time prior to trial instead of prior to or at the preliminary hearing. States that if there is a denial of such motion, a subsequent motion may be brought upon a showing of a change of circumstances, including newly available facts relevant to the charge or defendant's circumstances or a change in the applicable law.</p>
AB 379 (Schultz), CH. 82 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Crimes: prostitution	<p>Increases the penalty for solicitation of a minor in specified circumstances. Makes it a misdemeanor to loiter with the intent to purchase commercial sex. Uses funds from criminal fines and civil penalties to support grants to organizations that provide services to victims of sex trafficking and exploitation. Creates a human trafficking vertical prosecution grant program. Requires a defendant to complete an education program as a condition of probation. Authorizes the Attorney General's civil enforcement of specified trafficking-related violations.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 495 (C. Rodriguez), CH. 664 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025	<p>Modifies the definition of “relative,” for purposes of the <i>Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit</i>, to mean an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including all stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words “great,” “great-great,” or “grand,” or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution. Authorizes courts to issue joint guardianships to a custodial parent and a nominated individual while the parent is temporarily unavailable.</p>
AB 515 (Pacheco), CH. 559 Effective Date: January 1, 2027 Trial: statement of decision	<p>Effective January 1, 2027, requires a request for a statement of decision in all trials by court to be made in writing, or orally if there is an official record of the proceeding being transcribed, before the matter is submitted for decision. Requires the statement of decision to be served on all parties who appeared at the trial. Authorizes a court to issue a written statement of decision without a request from a party, and authorizes the court to order a party or parties to prepare a draft statement of decision. Permits a party to make objections to a statement of decision, as specified. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt or amend all rules of court necessary to implement these provisions and to prepare a form that a party may use to request a statement of decision. Extends the time the court clerk has to enter the court’s judgment to within 30 days after the filing of the court’s decision or, if a statement of decision was requested, within 30 days after the statement of decision becomes final. For cases under the Family Code, the court may shorten the time frame with a written order and statement of good cause.</p>
AB 561 (Quirk-Silva), CH. 267 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Restraining orders	<p>Authorizes a protective order for civil harassment, domestic violence, or an elder or dependent adult and any related filings to be submitted electronically. Requires the request, notice of the court date, copies of the request to serve on the respondent, and the temporary restraining order, if granted, to be provided to a petitioner electronically if they filed electronically, unless the petitioner notes, at the time of electronic filing, that the documents will be picked up from the court. Authorizes a party or witness to appear remotely at the hearing on the petition for a protective order, and prohibits the superior court from charging a fee for the remote appearance. Requires the superior court of each county to develop, and post on its website, local rules and instructions regarding remote appearances for protective orders. Authorizes a court to permit an alternative method of service if at the time of a hearing, with respect to an order issued based on an ex parte temporary protective order, the court determines that, after diligent effort, the petitioner has been unable to accomplish personal service and there is reason to believe that the restrained party is evading service or cannot be located. Delays the implementation of all the above requirements until January 1, 2027.</p>
AB 651 (Bryan), CH. 274 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Juveniles: dependency: incarcerated parent	<p>Requires notice 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.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 711 (Chen), CH. 64 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Civil Actions: shorthand reporters	<p>Requires that 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. Specifies that the meet and confer may be done through electronic communications.</p>
AB 747 (Kalra), CH. 563 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Service of Process Accountability, Reform, and Equity (SPARE) Act	<p>Defines “reasonable diligence,” for purposes of service of process, to mean attempting personal delivery of the summons and complaint, in good faith, on at least three occasions on three different days at three different times, with at least one such attempt being made at the dwelling house or usual place of abode of the person to be served, if such can be determined with reasonable effort. Specifies that if the dwelling house or usual place of abode of the person to be served cannot be determined with reasonable effort, the proof of service shall contain information as specified, including the efforts taken to locate the home address of the person to be served. Requires the proof of service of a summons and complaint, if served personally, by substituted service, or by mail, to include at least one photograph, if such can be obtained without compromising the safety of the process server, of the site of the effectuated or attempted service and contain a readable stamp and global positioning system (GPS) coordinates indicating the date, time, and location of service. Requires the process server to provide a detailed statement on the proof of service, as specified, if there is no GPS or cellular signal available at the time and place of the effected or attempted service. Authorizes a party, upon a showing that service of the summons and complaint was not effected, to bring a motion to quash service or to set aside or vacate a default judgment that is void for lack of proper service at any time after entry of the judgment. Specifies that if a party files a motion to quash service or to set aside or vacate a default or default judgment, the plaintiff has the burden of producing evidence and establishing by a preponderance of the evidence that the court has jurisdiction over the defendant and that service of the summons and complaint was effected. Requires the court to take evidence and authorizes the court to conduct a hearing and receive oral testimony if requested by either party. Requires an unlawful detainer complaint to include information describing the date, time, and location of effected service of the termination notice.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 774 (Bauer-Kahan), CH. 708 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Civil actions: enforcement of judgments	<p>Specifies that transmittal of a legal pleading by first-class mail, certified mail, or other method of transmission through the United States Postal Service providing a return receipt, as specified, is a permissible method of verification. Requires the judgment creditor to file with the court the declaration described above within 10 business days after delivering it to the levying officer. Permits the declaration to be signed by an individual with adequate knowledge of the verification process, including a custodian of records or an attorney for the judgment creditor. Deletes the requirement that a judgment creditor executing a levy on the earnings of an employee serve the earnings withholding order on the employee. Authorizes, for a personal debt as specified by law, a claimant to file a claim of exemption more than 20 days after the date the notice of levy is served on the judgment debtor. Permits a levying officer to release the funds to the judgment creditor at any time after the expiration of the 20-day period. Clarifies that the filing of an ex parte application in lieu of a motion for purposes of the procedures described above does not constitute a general appearance for purposes of a court exercising its jurisdiction over a party. Requires the employer's return to include information setting forth the date on which the employer provided the judgment debtor with the earnings withholding order and notice of earnings withholding order, the name and title of the person who provided the order and notice, and a description of the manner in which the order and notice were provided. Authorizes a judgment creditor to apply to the court for reinstatement of a released lien and its priority at the time of cancellation. Requires a court to enter in the court records that the judgment is no longer satisfied to the extent of the returned funds or property and to issue to the judgment creditor a certificate and notice of reinstatement of judgment lien as specified. Requires the application for reinstatement of a lien to be filed with a declaration by the judgment creditor that certifies specified information, including, among other things, that the judgment creditor released a lien with the reasonable belief that the money judgment was satisfied and the date and amount of the original judgment and any renewals thereof. Imposes a civil penalty of not more than \$1,500 for knowingly certifying false information in the judgment creditor's declaration. Provides the judgment debtor an opportunity to object, and if an objection is filed, requires the judgment creditor to proceed with a noticed motion for reinstatement of the lien.</p>
AB 848 (Soria), CH. 625 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Sexual battery	<p>Creates a factor in aggravation, for sentencing purposes in a sexual battery case, if the defendant was employed in a hospital where the offense occurred and the victim was in the defendant's care or obtaining medical care from the hospital.</p>
AB 863 (Kalra), CH. 344 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Residential rental properties: language requirements	<p>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 that includes the information specified above in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean. Requires the Judicial Council to publish this form on its website.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 890 (Lee), CH. 281 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Nonminor dependents: county of residence	<p>Authorizes the transfer of jurisdiction for a nonminor dependent upon request if the court finds that the transfer is in the best interest of the nonminor dependent after considering whether the transfer would enhance the nonminor dependent's access to services; the position of the social worker and, if applicable, the probation officer; whether the nonminor dependent would qualify as a resident of the new county; whether the nonminor dependent has established significant connections to the new county; and whether the nonminor dependent is involved in a separate dependency case as a parent in the new county. Requires the court to issue the order for transfer within 30 calendar days of the nonminor dependent's request and provides that the new county shall be deemed to have jurisdiction over the nonminor dependent within 10 calendar days of the issuance of the order.</p>
AB 1071 (Kalra), CH. 721 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Criminal procedure: discrimination	<p>Amends the Racial Justice Act (RJA) by, among other things, specifying that a defendant or petitioner may request discovery in preparation to file an RJA claim, allowing courts to impose a remedy specific to the violation that is not otherwise prohibited by law, lowering the prima facie showing threshold for habeas RJA claims, allowing a defendant to be appointed counsel for an RJA habeas petition if they pled a plausible allegation, and specifying that a court can remedy an RJA claim brought by habeas or the vacatur process by selecting from the applicable remedies outlined in the RJA.</p>
AB 1079 (Ávila Farias), CH. 178 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Civil appeals: stay of enforcement	<p>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 (1) a party's at-large method of election violates, or is likely to violate, the California Voting Rights Act of 2001; or (2) a party's election district boundaries violate, or are likely to violate, the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023. Notwithstanding that provision, authorizes a trial court to order the stay of a judgment or order under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 or the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023 upon the perfection of an appeal if the Secretary of State files a certification in the trial court stating that a stay is necessary for the orderly administration of the state's elections. Requires the party found to have violated or found to be likely to violate the acts to reimburse the county elections officials for costs incurred in administering the election that result from enforcement of the trial court's order or the order of a court issued while an appeal is pending. Specifies that these provisions do not apply to a judgment or order entered in a proceeding or action commenced on or before January 1, 2026, that asserts at least one cause of action under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 or the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023.</p>
AB 1087 (Patterson), CH. 180 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Crimes: vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated	<p>States that the length of the probationary period for specified vehicular manslaughter offenses shall be between three and five years.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 1094 (Bains), CH. 631 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Crimes: torture of a minor: parole	<p>Makes a defendant convicted of torture ineligible for parole until they have served seven years. If the defendant tortured a minor who was 14 years old or younger, of whom they had care or custody, they will be ineligible for parole until they have served 10 years of their sentence, as specified.</p>
AB 1178 (Pacheco), CH. 635 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Peace officers: confidentiality of records	<p>States that when a court is determining whether to compel disclosure under the California Public Records Act for certain records redacted by a law enforcement agency, the court must consider whether a peace officer within the redacted records is currently operating undercover and their duties require anonymity.</p>
AB 1344 (Irwin), CH. 573 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Restrictions on firearm possession: pilot project	<p>Authorizes the Counties of Alameda, El Dorado, Santa Clara, and Ventura to establish, until January 1, 2032, a pilot program to additionally authorize a district attorney to request that the court issue a temporary emergency gun violence restraining order, as specified. Requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to annually submit specified data to the California Firearm Violence Research Center at the University of California, Davis, and authorizes the center, commencing July 1, 2027, to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program and annually report that evaluation to the Legislature. Requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to make the data described above available upon request to the Department of Justice and the Judicial Council.</p>
AB 1363 (Stefani), CH. 574 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Protective orders: Wyland's Law	<p>Subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, authorizes the Department of Justice to establish, or contract with a vendor to establish, an automated protected person information and notification system to provide a petitioner or a protected person in a protective order case with automated access to information about their case. Requires a record demonstrating whether the superior court has fulfilled its existing transmission obligations or demonstrating receipt of information about a protective order that the Department of Justice maintains to be open to public inspection and copying.</p>
AB 1375 (Hoover), CH. 452 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Consideration when determining child custody: human trafficking	<p>Requires the court, when making a determination of the best interests of a child in a child custody matter, to consider any relevant, admissible evidence that a parent has caused human trafficking of the child or other parent.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 1376 (Bonta), CH. 575 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Wards: probation	<p>Creates a rebuttable presumption that probation should not extend beyond 12 months, and allows the presumption to be overcome by a preponderance of evidence that it is in the ward's and the public's best interest. Requires the court to state the reasons for the findings orally on the record in cases in which the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, a basis for extending probation. Requires the court to set forth the reasons in an order entered on the minutes if requested by either party or when the proceedings are not being recorded electronically or transcribed by a court reporter. Requires the court to hold noticed hearings for the ward at least every six months for the remainder of the wardship period if the court extends probation. Provides that these requirements do not apply to wards in a juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp or in a foster care placement. Amends several provisions of law requiring the juvenile court to impose specific conditions of probation on a ward of the court and instead makes all those conditions of probation discretionary. Removes the \$250 ceiling the court can charge a ward for restitution as well as the payment being directed to the county treasury and requirement for the court to find financial ability to pay.</p>
AB 1466 (Hart), CH. 643 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Groundwater adjudication	<p>Permits a court, in an action to adjudicate groundwater rights, to exempt or treat separately a claimant who extracts or diverts minor quantities of water. Requires the initial disclosure to additionally include information relating to agricultural use. Requires a court to request that the groundwater sustainability agency provide a technical report that quantifies and describes the groundwater uses of a party that has not otherwise appeared before the court.</p>
AB 1523 (Committee on Judiciary), CH. 201 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Court-ordered mediation	<p>Increases, as of January 1, 2027, the dollar amount of a controversy limitation for court-ordered mediation in civil actions to \$75,000, and imposes additional requirements, such as there being no ongoing discovery disputes and at least one party notifying the court of an interest in mediation. Requires the court, if the parties do not stipulate to a mutually agreeable mediator, to select a mediator at no cost to the parties. Requires court-ordered mediation to conclude with a mutually acceptable statement of agreement or nonagreement.</p>
SB 27 (Umberg), CH. 528 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act	<p>Authorizes a court, after a defendant has been declared incompetent to stand trial for a misdemeanor offense, to simultaneously consider their eligibility for both diversion and the CARE program. Allows the court to conduct an initial appearance on a CARE petition at the same time as the prima facie determination of CARE qualification, if specified requirements are met. Expands CARE to cover persons suffering from bipolar I disorder with psychotic features, except psychosis related to current intoxication, as a qualifying disorder. Allows a court to refer an individual from assisted outpatient therapy, or Lanterman-Petris-Short conservatorship, or in a proceeding finding them to be incompetent to stand trial for a misdemeanor or incompetent to stand trial for a felony to CARE Act court. Provides that the CARE Act court may consider a referral as a CARE Act petition if the referral contained all the information required by law to be included in a CARE Act petition.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 59 (Wiener), CH. 738 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Change of name or gender and sex identifier	<p>Expands existing confidentiality protections for minors seeking a judgment recognizing a name or gender change to all petitioners regardless of age. Makes court records associated with a proceeding for a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both, confidential. Requires 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, to be kept confidential by the court. Applies if the petition is filed on or after July 1, 2026, if the court orders the records in the proceeding to be kept confidential upon the request of the petitioner for petitions filed before that date, or if the records in the proceeding were previously made confidential by statute or otherwise. Requires the court to limit access to the court records in these proceedings to certain individuals. Prohibits a confidential record from being posted publicly on the internet or otherwise by a person or private entity other than the petitioner. Provides, commencing six months after the operative date of this law, that a petitioner who has been harmed by a disclosure of records by a private person or entity with actual knowledge that those records were made confidential or sealed by the court may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against a private person or entity that caused the harm.</p>
SB 66 (Umberg), CH. 50 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Civil discovery	<p>Removes the January 1, 2027, repeal date of the Civil Discovery Act, which generally requires each party that appears in a civil action to provide certain initial disclosures to the other parties to the action within 60 days of a demand by any party to the action. Requires disclosure of information and records regarding insurance policies or contracts that would make a person or insurance company liable to satisfy a judgment, and requires initial disclosures to be verified via the written declaration of the party or the party's authorized representative or signed by the party's counsel.</p>
SB 85 (Umberg), CH. 403 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Civil actions: service of summons	<p>Authorizes a court to direct a summons to be served in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give actual notice to the party to be served if a plaintiff, exercising reasonable diligence, has been unable to serve the summons using methods prescribed by statute. Authorizes a court, upon motion, to direct service of the summons by electronic means, if such service is reasonably calculated to give actual notice. Requires a plaintiff seeking to establish reasonable diligence to set forth facts that detail the attempts to effect service under the methods prescribed by statute. Excludes actions against public entities or agents or employees of public entities from its provisions.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 261 (Wahab), CH. 747 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Division of Labor Standards Enforcement: orders, decisions, and awards	<p>Makes an employer liable for a civil penalty of up to three times the outstanding judgment amount if a final judgment from the nonpayment of wages remains unsatisfied after a period of 180 days, prescribes how the penalties assessed are to be distributed and used, and requires a court to award a prevailing plaintiff specified fees and costs in any action brought by a judgment creditor, the Labor Commissioner, or a public prosecutor to enforce a final judgment against an employer.</p>
SB 281 (Pérez), CH. 666 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Pleas: immigration advisement	<p>States that the immigration advisement administered by courts during a guilty or no-contest plea must be given verbatim. Clarifies that for pleas accepted prior to January 1, 2026, failure to administer the advisement verbatim does not require withdrawal of the plea. Further clarifies that nothing in the section inhibits a court, in exercising its discretion, from vacating a judgment and permitting a defendant to withdraw their plea, as otherwise authorized by law.</p>
SB 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas), CH. 216 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Employment: bias mitigation training: unlawful discrimination	<p>Prevents the submission of evidence of a public employee's assessment, testing, admission, or acknowledgment of personal bias that was required or solicited as part of a bias mitigation training, as specified, in specified civil actions against a public employee or employer.</p>
SB 413 (Allen), CH. 221 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Juveniles: case file inspection	<p>Allows an attorney representing a party in a civil proceeding (defined to mean either a civil action or a government claim filed under the Government Claims Act) to inspect and use information and records in a juvenile case file when the civil claim is filed by or on behalf of the person who is the subject of the juvenile case file. Creates specified procedural protections. Allows information and copies of records from a juvenile case file to be provided to persons assisting the attorneys for the parties in the civil proceeding for their use in that proceeding without the prior approval of the court, but requires them to return all copies of records obtained under this authority at the conclusion of the civil proceeding and take appropriate steps to ensure that all copies of records from a juvenile case file obtained are destroyed upon the conclusion of the civil proceeding, consistent with other applicable laws.</p>
SB 450 (Menjivar), CH. 757 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Adoption	<p>Clarifies that California state courts have jurisdiction over a proceeding for the adoption of a minor if the minor was born in this state and either of the following applies: A proceeding to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents is not required to make the minor available for adoption, or the proceeding to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents to make the minor available for adoption is being brought in this state. Additionally requires an adoption order to include the names of the adoptive parent or parents and any existing parent who will maintain their parental rights after the finalization of the adoption. Clarifies that a failure to include an existing parent or parents on the adoption order in compliance with this provision shall not be construed to terminate the parental rights and responsibilities otherwise maintained under existing law by an existing parent or parents. Requires a</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
	petitioner for an independent adoption to be responsible for providing any additional documentation or information necessary to complete an adoption investigation if the out-of-state home study report is not substantially commensurate with California standards or is otherwise missing required information.
SB 676 (Limón), CH. 550 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> California Environmental Quality Act: judicial streamlining: state of emergency: wildfire	Requires an action or proceeding brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification of an environmental impact report, or the adoption of a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, for a project located in a geographic area for which the Governor declared a state of emergency on or after January 1, 2023, to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed by wildfire to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 calendar days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings. Requires an applicant to agree to pay the costs of the trial court and Court of Appeal in hearing and deciding any action or proceeding. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court to implement these requirements.
SB 680 (Rubio), CH. 780 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Sex offender registration: unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor	Requires, for offenses occurring on or after January 1, 2026, a defendant convicted of statutory rape to register as a sex offender if the defendant was three or more years older than the victim or if the defendant was 21 years of age or older and the victim was under 16 years of age. Authorizes the court to make the registration determination if the defendant is less than 10 years older than the minor.
SB 683 (Cortese), CH. 590 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Privacy: use of a person's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness: injunctive relief	Provides that a party seeking relief for the unlawful use of their name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness in products, merchandise, or goods, or for purposes of advertising or selling, or soliciting purchases of, products, merchandise, goods, or services may also seek an injunction or temporary restraining order in addition to damages.
SB 734 (Caballero), CH. 784 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Criminal procedure: discrimination	States that if a defendant is represented by an attorney and is bringing forth a motion or habeas petition claiming a specified Racial Justice Act (RJA) violation by a peace officer, the attorney must serve the law enforcement agency. Also, for such RJA claims brought as a vacatur motion, requires the defendant to serve the law enforcement agency.
SB 786 (Arreguín), CH. 526 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Planning and zoning: general plan: judicial challenges	Limits the period for which a court may continue a trial or hearing on a challenge to a city general plan to no more than 60 days. Authorizes a court to grant one continuance on the court's own motion. Requires a court to grant temporary relief in any instance in which the court orders a continuance rather than only if the court grants a continuance to a respondent. Requires the court to consider ordering additional temporary relief if the court has already granted temporary relief.

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 808 (Caballero), CH. 527 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Civil actions: writs: housing development projects	<p>Provides expedited judicial review for denials of permits or other entitlements for housing development projects or residential units at the trial and appellate level. Authorizes a petitioner, the Attorney General, or the Department of Housing and Community Development to file a petition for writ of mandate under these provisions. Requires that a hearing be set no later than 45 days after the filing of the writ, and requires the court to issue a decision no later than 30 days after the matter is submitted or 75 days after the writ was filed, whichever is earlier. Authorizes the temporary assignment of judicial officers to meet these timelines.</p>
SB 857 (Committee on Public Safety), CH. 241 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Public safety omnibus	<p>Makes technical and noncontroversial changes to various code sections relating generally to criminal justice laws. Specifically, among other things, clarifies cross-references to mental health diversion for when a court is determining whether to refer a defendant found incompetent to stand trial to diversion.</p>

APPENDIX B

2025–2026 LEGISLATION AFFECTING CALIFORNIA APPELLATE PROCEDURE

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TITLE	SUMMARY OF NEW LAW
AB 289 (Haney), CH. 684 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> State highway work zone speed safety program	<p>Authorizes a pilot program of up to 35 speed safety systems to be operated by Caltrans. Authorizes Caltrans to use automated speed safety cameras to issue civil violations and assess specified penalties for speeding violations within highway work zones to the registered owner of the vehicle. States a person cannot be assessed a civil penalty if they are subject to criminal penalties for the same act. Adds appeal rights for automated speed violations assessed in a state highway work zone as a limited civil case in a state superior court.</p>
AB 531 (Rogers), CH. 372 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Geothermal powerplants and projects: certification and environmental review	<p>Expands the types of facilities eligible to be certified as environmental leadership development projects by the Energy Commission, and therefor eligible for expedited judicial review, to include geothermal power plants and projects that comprise multiple geothermal power plants on a single site.</p>
ACA 8 (Rivas), CH. 156 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Congressional redistricting	<p>Requires the state to temporarily use the congressional districts reflected in AB 604 (Stats. 2025, ch. 96) for every congressional election until the new congressional boundary lines are drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2031. Declares that the Attorney General has the sole legal standing to defend any action regarding a congressional district map adopted, and declares that the California Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all proceedings in which a congressional district map adopted is challenged. (A prior version of the bill related to elections of justices of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal.)</p>
SB 59 (Wiener), CH. 738 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Change of name or gender and sex identifier	<p>Expands existing confidentiality protections for minors seeking a judgment recognizing a name or gender change to all petitioners regardless of age. Requires 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, to be kept confidential by the court. Requires the court to limit access to the court records in these proceedings to certain individuals.</p>
SB 676 (Limón), CH. 550 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> California Environmental Quality Act: judicial streamlining: state of emergency: wildfire	<p>Requires an action or proceeding brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification of an environmental impact report, or the adoption of a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, for a project located in a geographic area for which the Governor declared a state of emergency on or after January 1, 2023, to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed by wildfire to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 calendar days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings. Requires an applicant to agree to pay the costs of the trial court and Court of Appeal in hearing and deciding any action or proceeding. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court to implement these requirements.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TITLE	SUMMARY OF NEW LAW
SB 786 (Arreguín), CH. 526 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Planning and zoning: general plan: judicial challenges	Limits the period for which a court may continue a trial or hearing on a challenge to a city general plan to no more than 60 days. Authorizes a court to grant one continuance on the court's own motion. Requires a court to grant temporary relief in any instance in which the court orders a continuance rather than only if the court grants a continuance to a respondent. Requires the court to consider ordering additional temporary relief if the court has already granted temporary relief.
SB 808 (Caballero), CH. 527 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Civil Actions: writs: housing development projects	Provides expedited judicial review for denials of permits or other entitlements for housing development projects or residential units at the trial and appellate level. Authorizes a petitioner, the Attorney General, or the Department of Housing and Community Development to file a petition for writ of mandate under these provisions, requires that a hearing be set no later than 45 days after the filing of the writ, requires the court to issue a decision no later than 30 days after the matter is submitted or 75 days after the writ was filed, whichever is earlier, and authorizes the temporary assignment of judicial officers to meet the timelines.

APPENDIX C

2025–2026 LEGISLATION RESPONDING TO CALIFORNIA APPELLATE AND SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 1071 (Kalra), CH. 721 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Criminal procedure: discrimination	<p>Amends the Racial Justice Act (RJA) by, among other things, specifying that a defendant or petitioner may request discovery in preparation to file an RJA claim and that courts may impose a remedy specific to the violation that is not otherwise prohibited by law, lowers the prima facie showing threshold for habeas RJA claims, allows a defendant to be appointed counsel for an RJA habeas petition if they pled a plausible allegation, and specifies that a court can remedy an RJA claim brought by habeas or the vacatur process by selecting from the applicable remedies outlined in the RJA.</p>
AB 1079 (Ávila Fariás), CH. 178 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Civil appeals: stay of enforcement	<p>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 (1) a party's at-large method of election violates, or is likely to violate, the California Voting Rights Act of 2001; or (2) a party's election district boundaries violate, or are likely to violate, the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023. Notwithstanding that provision, the bill authorizes a trial court to order the stay of a judgment or order under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 or the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023 upon the perfection of an appeal if the Secretary of State files a certification in the trial court stating that a stay is necessary for the orderly administration of the state's elections. Requires the party found to have violated or found to be likely to violate the acts to reimburse the county elections officials for costs incurred in administering the election that result from enforcement of the trial court's order or the order of a court issued while an appeal is pending. Specifies that these provisions do not apply to a judgment or order entered in a proceeding or action commenced on or before January 1, 2026, that asserts at least one cause of action under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 or the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023.</p>
SB 809 (Durazo), CH. 659 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Employees and independent contractors: construction trucking	<p>Requires the Labor Commissioner and the Employment Development Department to administer a Construction Trucking Employer Amnesty Program, under which an eligible construction contractor shall be relieved of liability for statutory or civil penalties associated with the misclassification of construction drivers as independent contractors if the eligible construction contractor executes a settlement agreement negotiated with, or approved by, the Labor Commissioner whereby the eligible construction contractor agrees to, among other things, properly classify all drivers performing construction work on its behalf as employees. Permits the Labor Commissioner to file a civil action to enforce a settlement agreement if the Commissioner determines an eligible construction contractor violated or failed to perform any of their obligations under the settlement agreement.</p>

APPENDIX D

2025 NEW AND EXPANDED CRIMES

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 8 (Aguiar-Curry), CH. 248 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Cannabis: cannabinoids: industrial hemp	Expands the scope of a crime by placing new regulations on industrial raw hemp purity levels in foods or beverages. Expands the definition of cannabis and cannabis products for tax and regulation purposes; requires an attestation be made by persons seeking relief for violating such provisions, and makes false statements in the attestation punishable as a misdemeanor.
AB 55 (Bonta), CH. 595 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Alternative birth centers: licensing and Medi-Cal reimbursement	Among other things, imposes new requirements for alternative birth centers or primary care clinics that provide alternative birth care. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as existing law requires licensing and regulates such clinics through the State Department of Public Health and violations of such laws are a crime.
AB 64 (Pacheco), CH. 662 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Vital records	Expands the crime of perjury for attestations related to birth, death, and marriage certificates.
AB 82 (Ward), CH. 679 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Health care: legally protected health-care activity	Expands the address confidentiality program to volunteers, employees, and providers of gender-affirming health care who face threats of violence or harassment due to their work; those seeking confidentiality under the program must attest that they are eligible, and any false statement is punishable as a misdemeanor. Expands the scope of a preexisting crime by expanding the list of those eligible under the program and thereby the population of individuals who need to make the attestation. Expands certain doxing prohibitions to cover gender-affirming health-care service providers. Prohibits reporting of prescriptions for testosterone or mifepristone to the Department of Justice. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as existing law makes certain violations of such reporting prohibitions a crime.
AB 238 (Harabedian), CH. 128 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Mortgage forbearance: state of emergency: wildfire	Expands the crime of perjury by requiring a mortgage borrower seeking a forbearance due to a wildfire to affirm that they are experiencing financial hardship based on the wildfire.

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AB 243 (Ahrens), CH. 610 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Postsecondary education: student financial aid dependency status: juveniles	<p>Authorizes a county child welfare department, county probation department, or local educational agency, upon the request of a youth formerly in the foster care or probation system, to provide certain otherwise confidential personal information to an institution of higher education to assist the youth's attendance. Requires the institution of higher education to keep the information confidential, and provides that an intentional violation of that confidentiality is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.</p>
AB 325 (Aguiar-Curry), CH. 328 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Cartwright Act: violations	<p>Expands the list of proscribed activity under the Cartwright Act by making it unlawful to use common pricing algorithms as part of a contract or to recommend prices, among other things. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the Cartwright Act are a crime.</p>
AB 365 (Schiavo), CH. 361 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Justin Kropp Safety Act: electrical utilities: automated external defibrillator availability at worksites	<p>Creates the Justin Kropp Safety Act, which requires electric utility companies to have defibrillators available at specified worksites and to adopt applicable policies and procedures. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the Public Utilities Act, a violation of which is a crime.</p>
AB 366 (Petrie-Norris), CH. 689 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Ignition interlock devices	<p>Extends the sunset of the ignition interlock device pilot program from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2033. Extends the application of an existing crime, as violations of the program are a crime and these provisions extend the program.</p>
AB 379 (Schultz), CH. 82 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Crimes: prostitution	<p>Increases the penalty for solicitation of a minor in specified circumstances, and makes it a misdemeanor to loiter with the intent to purchase commercial sex.</p>
AB 383 (Davies), CH. 362 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Firearms: prohibition: minors	<p>Expands exemptions to the prohibition against the purchase and possession of firearms by minors for specified activities related to hunting education, applies existing postconviction firearm relinquishment procedures to minors adjudicated to have committed a crime and individuals subject to specified restraining orders, and authorizes the issuance of a search warrant for minors unlawfully in possession of a firearm.</p>
AB 394 (Wilson), CH. 147 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Public transportation providers	<p>Expands the crime of battery against certain vehicle operators to apply to an employee, public transportation provider, or contractor of a public transportation provider.</p>

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AB 435 (Wilson), CH. 434 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Vehicles: child passenger restraints	Beginning January 1, 2027, amends the definition of “properly restrained by a safety belt” to reference the five-step test.
AB 454 (Kalra), CH. 365 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act	Makes permanent the provisions of the California Migratory Bird Protection Act by removing the sunset date of January 1, 2026, and removes an exemption related to the taking or possessing of a migratory nongame bird. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the act are a crime and this bill extends the operation of the act as well as removes an exemption.
AB 468 (Gabriel), CH. 533 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Crimes: looting	Recasts the underlying larceny crimes that can constitute looting during a state of emergency, and increases the punishments associated with those crimes.
AB 476 (M. González), CH. 694 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Metal theft	Expands impositions on junk dealers and recyclers to include additional information in their written records of sales and purchases, adds materials to the list of items that dealers and recyclers may not purchase, and increases criminal penalties. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of such impositions are a crime and this bill increases the impositions as well as the associated penalties.
AB 486 (Lackey), CH. 367 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Crimes: burglary tools	Makes it a misdemeanor to possess a key programming device, key duplicating device, or signal extender with the intent to feloniously break or enter into any building, aircraft, vessel, or vehicle.
AB 489 (Bonta), CH. 615 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Health-care professions: deceptive terms or letters: artificial intelligence	Expands prohibitions on false or misleading advertisements in the health-care profession context to cover developers of artificial intelligence systems that generate such advertisements. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as such advertisements in the health-care context are a crime and this bill expands that prohibition.
AB 495 (C. Rodriguez), CH. 664 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025	Known as the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025, among other things, expands <i>Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit</i> to nonrelative extended family members, as defined. Expands the crime of perjury, as the affidavit is signed under penalty of perjury and this bill expands the scope of those eligible to sign it.

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 533 (Flora), CH. 35 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Health-care districts: design-build process	<p>Authorizes a health-care district to use the design-build process when procuring contracts for the construction of a hospital or health facility building. Expands the scope of those eligible to be convicted of the crime of perjury, as the application for such contracts is made under penalty of perjury.</p>
AB 583 (Pellerin), CH. 271 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Death certificates	<p>Includes nurse practitioners in the group of certain health professionals who are required to notate certain details regarding the death of an individual in their care and to notify the county coroner. Expands the scope of existing crimes, as violations of such requirements are a crime, including perjury.</p>
AB 653 (Lackey), CH. 379 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Child abuse: mandated reporters: talent agents, managers, and coaches	<p>Includes talent agents, talent managers, or talent coaches as mandated reporters in the list of professions who are mandated to report child abuse. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as failures of such professionals to report child abuse are a crime under specified circumstances and this bill expands the list of professionals.</p>
AB 663 (McKinnor), CH. 161 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Hydrofluorocarbon gases: sale and distribution prohibition: exemptions	<p>Eliminates the exemption of reclaimed hydrofluorocarbons from state law prohibiting the sale or distribution of regular hydrofluorocarbons. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the prohibition are a crime and these provisions remove an exemption.</p>
AB 671 (Wicks), CH. 470 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Accelerated restaurant building plan approval: California Retail Food Code: tenant improvements	<p>Makes a variety of changes to several provisions of law regarding restaurant building plan approvals, including the California Building Standards Law, Government Claims Act, California Retail Food Code, and the California Environmental Quality Act. Expands the scope of existing crimes, as violations of those laws can be a crime and this bill makes various changes to those laws.</p>
AB 723 (Pellerin), CH. 497 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Real estate: digitally altered images: disclosure	<p>Establishes requirements that real estate brokers and their representatives must adhere to regarding digitally altered images under the Real Estate Law Act. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the act are a crime.</p>
AB 777 (C. Rodriguez), CH. 709 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Food assistance: disasters: utilities	<p>Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and local publicly owned electric utilities to create procedures assisting in the timely sharing of data to the State Department of Social Services (DSS) to help maximize food assistance. Also requires such utility operators to make reasonable efforts to provide DSS aggregated customer data for specified outages. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of PUC actions implementing a law are a crime and this bill adds to those provisions.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 831 (Valencia), CH. 623 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Gambling: operation of a contest or sweepstakes	Prohibits any persons or entities from conducting or supporting an online sweepstakes game, while specifying that any gambling enterprise within the Gambling Control Act or California State Lottery would remain lawful.
AB 848 (Soria), CH. 625 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Sexual battery	Creates a factor in aggravation, for sentencing purposes in a sexual battery case, when the defendant was employed in a hospital and the victim was obtaining medical care from the hospital.
AB 851 (McKinnor), CH. 535 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Real property transactions: Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura wildfires: unsolicited offers	Prohibits a person from making an unsolicited offer to purchase residential real property in certain parts of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties that were affected by recent wildfires. Requires affirmations under penalty of perjury to ensure that, prior to transfer of title, the offer was solicited by the seller and not the buyer. Creates a new crime prohibiting such unsolicited offers and, in addition, expands the crime of perjury.
AB 867 (Lee), CH. 479 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Veterinary medicine: cat declawing	Includes declawing a feline as an action constituting the practice of veterinary medicine under the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, with specified exemptions. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the act are a crime and this bill imposes new requirements within the act.
AB 894 (Carrillo), CH. 384 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> General acute care hospitals: patient directories	Requires general acute care hospitals to inform patients, or their representatives, that they may restrict or prohibit disclosure of protected health information in the patient directory, and establishes procedures to ensure such information is given. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act and violations of the act are a crime.
AB 951 (Ta), CH. 84 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Health-care coverage: behavioral diagnoses	Prohibits health-care service plan contracts or policies entered into on or after January 1, 2026, from requiring a new diagnosis of pervasive developmental disorder or autism from a person if they were previously diagnosed. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as such contracts or policies fall within the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 and violations of the act are a crime.
AB 953 (Pacheco), CH. 170 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Political Reform Act of 1974: contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals	Expands the prohibition of monies from foreign governments and principals to include “foreign nationals” in the context of political donations. Defines “foreign nationals” as persons who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, except for those granted deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as such prohibitions fall under the Political Reform Act of 1974 and violations of the act are a crime.

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 960 (Garcia), CH. 172 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Patient visitation	<p>Requires general acute care hospitals to allow patients with certain physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities to have a family or friend caregiver stay with them outside standard visiting hours, as specified. Establishes several exceptions, and outlines certain safety requirements. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as existing law regulates such hospitals and this bill falls within those provisions.</p>
AB 1041 (Bennett), CH. 630 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Health-care coverage: health-care provider credentials	<p>Requires health insurers that credential health-care providers to make a determination regarding the credentials of the provider within 90 days of receiving an application. Includes details regarding notification and provisional approvals of credentials, as specified. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 and violations of the act are a crime.</p>
AB 1078 (Berman), CH. 570 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Firearms	<p>Establishes a variety of new requirements imposed on those licensed to carry a concealed firearm, including provisions for out-of-state licensees, behavior that could disqualify an individual from becoming licensed, background check specifications, and new affirmations that must be made under penalty of perjury when applying for a license. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of these requirements can be a crime, including the crime of perjury.</p>
AB 1085 (Stefani), CH. 179 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 License plates: obstruction or alteration	<p>Prohibits selling, installing, or affixing a shade or tint that obstructs the reading or recognition of a license plate by an electronic device operated by state or local law enforcement; an electronic device operated in connection with a toll road, high-occupancy toll lane, toll bridge, or other toll facility; or a remote emission-sensing device, as specified. Also makes it a misdemeanor to manufacture such products. Expands the scope of an existing crime and creates a new crime, as the provisions in this bill are within the Vehicle Code, violations of which are a crime.</p>
AB 1096 (Connolly), CH. 290 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Water: school sites: lead testing	<p>Requires community water systems, as defined, to compile specified information about schools and childcare facilities that decline lead testing, including the reasoning behind the declination. Additionally requires community water systems to forward specified information to the State Water Resources Control Board, and requires that the information be made available to the public. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as false statements or representations are a crime under the California Safe Drinking Water Act and this bill falls within those provisions.</p>
AB 1127 (Gabriel), CH. 572 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Firearms: converter pistols	<p>Defines a “semiautomatic machine gun—convertible pistol,” and imposes several prohibitions and requirements regarding its possession or manufacture, as well as including it in the definition of a “machine gun.” Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of firearm manufacturing or possession are generally punishable as crimes and this bill falls within those provisions. Also creates a new misdemeanor for firearms dealers who sell or exchange a machine gun—convertible pistol.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 1172 (Nguyen), CH. 448 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Adult day programs: administration of intranasal emergency antiseizure medications	<p>Authorizes community care facilities to, upon consent from the patient or their representative, have specified personnel administer antiseizure medication during a seizure emergency for those diagnosed with epilepsy or other seizure disorders. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the California Community Care Facilities Act and violations of the act are a crime.</p>
AB 1263 (Gipson), CH. 636 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Firearms: ghost guns	<p>Establishes several new requirements regarding firearms and their components, including but not limited to requirements on firearm manufacturers under the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act and notification to firearm purchasers of prohibitions on the unlicensed manufacturing of firearms. Includes unlicensed firearm manufacturing offenses in the list of misdemeanor offenses that result in a 10-year firearm possession ban. Expands the scope of an existing crime and creates new crimes, as violations of firearm possession and manufacturing requirements are generally a crime.</p>
AB 1272 (Dixon), CH. 68 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Department of Motor Vehicles: occupational licensees	<p>Prohibits holders of an occupational license issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from using the DMV logogram in any internet domain names. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as existing law prohibits such logograms in any business name or telephone number, violations of which are a crime, and this bill expands the prohibition.</p>
AB 1303 (Valencia), CH. 347 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Communications: lifeline telephone service program	<p>Prohibits the Public Utilities Commission and a provider of low-income basic telephone service, the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service, from making accessible any client information to any local, state, or federal authority without a valid judicial warrant or subpoena. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the Public Utilities Act, violations of which are a crime.</p>
AB 1319 (Schultz), CH. 638 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Protected species: California Endangered Species Act	<p>Makes it a misdemeanor to import, export, offer for sale, or acquire any fish, wildlife, or plant that was taken in violation of a law of any other state or the U.S. government that was in effect as of January 1, 2025.</p>
AB 1370 (Patterson), CH. 191 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> State Legislature: nondisclosure agreements	<p>Establishes within the legislative code of ethics a new law that prohibits a member of the Legislature from entering into or requesting another party enter into a nondisclosure agreement relating to proposed legislation. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the legislative code of ethics are a crime and this bill creates a new provision within the code.</p>
AB 1398 (Valencia), CH. 640 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Workers' compensation	<p>Amends existing workers' compensation law to require all interested parties to provide written disclosure of their interests when a patient is referred for specified medical services or goods. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the existing law is a crime and this bill amends the law to additionally require written disclosure.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 1495 (Valencia), CH. 400 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Home health aides: training and certification	<p>Requires trainees for home health aide certification to confirm their identity under penalty of perjury. Also requires a certified home health aide to submit evidence of completion of a 12-hour training course. Expands the scope of existing crimes, as this bill requires confirmation be made under penalty of perjury and imposes additional requirements on home health aides, violations of which are a crime.</p>
AB 1532 (Committee on Communications and Conveyance), CH. 205 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Public Utilities Commission	<p>Extends the requirement that the Public Utilities Commission establish a program relating to accessibility for persons with disabilities within the transportation network company context. Extends the length of an existing crime, as violations of the commission's orders or demands are a crime and this bill extends that authority.</p>
SB 19 (Rubio), CH. 594 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Crimes: threats	<p>States that a criminal threat against a person at a daycare, school, university, workplace, house of worship, or medical facility is a crime.</p>
SB 40 (Wiener), CH. 737 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Health-care coverage: insulin	<p>Prohibits large group health-care service policies from imposing a copayment or other type of cost sharing on insulin prescription drugs, as specified. Outlines certain exceptions and timeline procedures. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act, violations of which are a crime.</p>
SB 41 (Wiener), CH. 605 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Pharmacy benefits	<p>Prohibits pharmacy benefit managers from, among other things, excluding or discriminating against nonaffiliated pharmacies in the context of dispensing drugs, and prohibits health insurance plans from imposing cost sharing on an insured that exceeds the actual rate the plan must pay for prescription drug coverage, if applicable. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act, violations of which are a crime.</p>
SB 68 (Menjivar), CH. 741 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Major food allergens	<p>Adds sesame to the list of major food allergens within the California Retail Food Code, for which food facilities must educate and obtain training for employees. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the code are a crime.</p>
SB 81 (Arreguin), CH. 123 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Health and care facilities: information sharing	<p>Revises the definition of "medical information" to include immigration status under the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, and outlines several procedures that medical providers must adhere to. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act are a crime.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 221 (Ochoa Bogh), CH. 576 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Crimes: stalking	Expands the crime of stalking to take into account situations in which the defendant threatens a person's pet, horse, or other specified type of animal.
SB 258 (Wahab), CH. 599 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Crimes: rape	Expands the crime of rape to include cases where a person has sexual intercourse with their spouse who cannot "legally consent" due to a mental disorder, developmental disability, or physical disability.
SB 312 (Umberg), CH. 480 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Dog importation: health certificates	Amends the Food and Agricultural Code to impose new requirements that a person selling or importing a dog into the state must follow in terms of a health certificate. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the code are a crime.
SB 362 (Grayson), CH. 352 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Commercial financing: disclosures	Prohibits commercial financiers from using the terms "interest" or "rate" in ways that could mislead recipients, among other things. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the California Financing Law, violations of which are a crime.
SB 398 (Umberg), CH. 246 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Election crimes: payment based on voting or voter registration	Makes it a crime for a person to knowingly or willfully pay or offer to pay another person with the intent to induce them to vote or register to vote.
SB 403 (Blakespear), CH. 315 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> End of Life Option Act: sunset	Removes the sunset clause of the End of Life Option Act, which, among other things, makes it a crime to coerce or unduly influence someone to ingest an aid-in-dying drug to end their life. Makes an existing crime permanent, as this bill extends the operation of the act indefinitely.
SB 412 (Limón), CH. 414 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Home care aides	Requires home care organizations to ensure home care aides complete specified training related to dementia patients. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as these provisions fall within the Home Care Services Consumer Protection Act, violations of which are a crime.
SB 497 (Wiener), CH. 764 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Legally protected health-care activity	Makes it a misdemeanor for a person to access a specified prescription drug database (the Controlled Substances Utilization Review and Evaluation System) or to furnish information from the database when not otherwise authorized by law.

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SB 513 (Durazo), CH. 654 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Personnel records	Requires employers to keep within their personnel records information related to an employee's education and training records. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the record retention laws are a crime and this bill falls within those provisions.
SB 571 (Archuleta), CH. 545 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Emergencies: crimes	Makes a variety of changes and additions to the commission of crimes within an evacuation area during an emergency, including making it a crime for a person other than a first responder to wear a uniform or emblem or use a certificate of a first responder.
SB 582 (Stern), CH. 546 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Health and care facilities: licensing during emergencies or disasters	Makes a variety of changes to requirements on health-care facilities related to external disaster and mass casualty events, including requiring nurse facilities to review their disaster plans yearly, tolling licensing status for various health facilities during a disaster, and allowing the Department of Social Services to waive in-person attendance requirements for childcare programs affected by disaster. Expands the scope of existing crimes, as violations of such provisions are a crime.
SB 593 (Hurtado), CH. 420 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Electrical corporations: significant voltage-related incidents: studies	Directs the Public Utilities Commission to require large electrical corporations to study significant voltage-related incidents that resulted in damage to customer-owned equipment or property, as specified. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of any commission order, decision, or rule is a crime and this bill falls within those provisions.
SB 598 (Durazo), CH. 655 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Public contracts: local water infrastructure projects: construction manager/general contractor project delivery method	Authorizes local agencies to use a specified project delivery method for regional recycled water or other water infrastructure projects undertaken to alleviate water supply shortages. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as such contracts for the projects are made under penalty of perjury.
SB 614 (Stern), CH. 529 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Public resources: transportation of carbon dioxide	Revises the definition of "pipeline" under the Elder California Pipeline Safety Act of 1981 to include pipes that transport carbon dioxide, and makes various changes relating to such pipelines. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the act are a crime.
SB 627 (Wiener), CH. 125 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Law enforcement: masks	Prohibits all local, other state, and federal law enforcement agencies operating in California from wearing a facial covering in the performance of their duties except as specified. Requires such law enforcement agencies to develop and post a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings by July 1, 2026.

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 646 (Weber Pierson), CH. 602 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Prenatal multivitamins	Imposes a variety of requirements on manufacturers of bulk prenatal multivitamins, and makes specified violations of such requirements a crime.
SB 652 (Richardson), CH. 94 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Private security services: security guards: training	Imposes additional requirements for security guard training under the Private Security Services Act, including who can provide the training and who can undergo such training, and imposes a timeline on when the training must be taken before submitting an application to the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the Private Security Services Act are a crime.
SB 680 (Rubio), CH. 780 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Sex offender registration: unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor	Requires, for offenses occurring on or after January 1, 2026, a defendant convicted of statutory rape to register as a sex offender if the defendant was three or more years older than the victim or if the defendant was 21 years of age or older and the victim was under 16 years of age. Authorizes the court to make the registration determination if the defendant is less than 10 years older than the minor.
SB 701 (Wahab), CH. 458 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Signal jammers	Makes it a misdemeanor to manufacture, import, sell, or operate a signal jammer, as defined, unless authorized to do so by the Federal Communications Commission.
SB 704 (Arreguín), CH. 591 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Firearms: firearm barrels	Requires the purchase or transfer of a firearm barrel to be conducted by a firearms dealer, and imposes several background checks and other requirements. Makes violations of such requirements a misdemeanor.
SB 775 (Ashby), CH. 787 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences	Extends the sunset date for the California Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences until January 1, 2030, and makes additional technical changes in response to issues raised during the boards' sunset review oversight process. Expands the scope of existing crimes as well as the scope of perjury, as violations of the underlying acts creating these boards can be a crime.
SB 776 (Ashby), CH. 788 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Optometry	Makes a variety of changes to the Optometry Practice Act, including requiring applicants for probationary registration to complete a clinical training program and attest to completion under penalty of perjury, removing the authority of certain registrants to fit and adjust spectacle lenses or take facial measurements, and redefining specified terms. Expands the scope of existing crimes as well as the scope of perjury, as violations of the act can be a crime.

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 805 (Pérez), CH. 126 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Crimes	Revises and recasts prohibitions on impersonating law enforcement officers to include federal law enforcement officers, requires law enforcement officers to display certain information such as badge numbers, and authorizes peace officers to request an alleged law enforcement officer to present identification if they are believed to have committed a crime, as specified. Expands the scope of existing crimes, as violations of existing prohibitions are a crime, and creates new ones.
SB 839 (Laird), CH. 237 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Oil spills: fishing: water closure: grants: liability	Makes a variety of changes to the procedures the director of Fish and Wildlife must take after having been notified of an oil spill or discharge, as specified. Makes it a crime to take fish or shellfish from waters closed due to such spills. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of the procedural requirements are a crime, and creates new crimes, as it prohibits taking of fish from certain areas.
SB 848 (Pérez), CH. 460 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Pupil safety: school employee misconduct: child abuse prevention	Adds a number of school employees to the list of mandated child abuse reporters, among a variety of other changes. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of mandated reporter laws are a crime and this bill adds to the list of eligible reporters.
SB 862 (Committee on Health), CH. 243 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Health	Makes a variety of changes to health care–related laws, including specifying that classroom training for specified nurse assistant certifications must include training on persons with Alzheimer’s and related dementias, as specified. Expands the scope of an existing crime, as violations of such laws are a crime and this bill falls within those provisions.

APPENDIX E

2025 NEW AND EXPANDED CAUSES OF ACTION

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 45 (Bauer-Kahan), CH. 134 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Privacy: health data: location and research	<p>Recasts existing law to prohibit the collection, use, disclosure, sale, sharing, or retention of the personal information of a natural person who is physically located at, or within a precise geolocation of, a family planning center. Provides exceptions including the collection or use as necessary to perform the services or provide the goods requested. Provides that the provisions do not alter applicable law regarding use by a law enforcement agency of personal information generated by an electronic monitoring device. Authorizes an aggrieved person to institute and prosecute a civil action against a natural person, association, proprietorship, corporation, trust, foundation, partnership, or any other organization or group of people acting in concert for a violation of these provisions.</p>
AB 130 (Committee on Budget), CH. 22 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Housing	<p>Makes certain conduct an unlawful practice in connection with a subordinate mortgage, including that the mortgage servicer did not provide the borrower with any communication regarding the loan secured by the mortgage for at least three years. Prohibits a mortgage servicer from conducting or threatening to conduct a nonjudicial foreclosure until the mortgage servicer (1) simultaneously with the recording of a notice of default, records or causes to be recorded a certification, as specified, under penalty of perjury that either the mortgage servicer did not engage in an unlawful practice or the mortgage servicer lists all instances when it committed an unlawful practice; and (2) simultaneously with the service of a recorded notice of default, sends the recorded certification and a notice to the borrower, as specified. Imposes a state-mandated local program by expanding the scope of a crime. Entitles a plaintiff who prevails in specified legal actions to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Additionally authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to bring a civil action to enforce these provisions.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 246 (Bryan), CH. 337 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Social Security Tenant Protection Act of 2025	<p>Enacts, until January 20, 2029, the Social Security Tenant Protection Act of 2025. Authorizes a tenant of residential real property to assert Social Security hardship as an affirmative defense in an unlawful detainer proceeding based on the nonpayment of rent. Defines “Social Security hardship” as a loss of income due to an interruption in the payment of Social Security benefits due to the action or inaction of the federal government. Requires a tenant asserting Social Security hardship as an affirmative defense to provide, to the satisfaction of the court, evidence that Social Security payments typically received by the tenant’s household have been terminated, delayed, or reduced due to no fault of the tenant and that the hardship prevented the tenant from paying the rent. Requires the court to issue a stay of the unlawful detainer action if the tenant successfully provides this evidence, as specified. Does not relieve a tenant of their obligation to pay past-due rent, and requires a tenant, within 14 days of the Social Security benefits being restored, to either pay all past-due rent or enter into a mutually agreed-upon payment plan with the owner of the residential real property. Requires the court to either dismiss the unlawful detainer action with prejudice or set aside the judgment against all named and unnamed defendants in the action if the tenant pays all past-due rent or enters into a payment plan with the owner. Further requires the Judicial Council, by January 1, 2027, to adopt or modify forms as needed to implement the act.</p>
AB 250 (Aguilar-Curry), CH. 682 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Sexual assault: statute of limitations	<p>Extends the eligibility period for revival of claims to include claims that would otherwise be barred prior to January 1, 2026, because the applicable statute of limitations has or had expired. Instead requires a revived claim against an entity, as defined, to allege that the plaintiff was sexually assaulted and that (1) one or more entities or persons are legally responsible for damages arising out of sexual assault by an alleged perpetrator against the plaintiff; and (2) an entity or entities, including their specified representatives, engaged in a cover-up or attempted a cover-up of a previous instance or allegations of sexual assault by an alleged perpetrator. Additionally revives a claim against the person who committed the sexual assault brought by a plaintiff who alleges, among other things, that one or more entities or persons are legally responsible for damages arising out of the sexual assault. Specifies that failure to allege a cover-up as to one entity does not affect revival of a claim or claims against any other entity or person, including the perpetrator. Permits a cause of action for any such claim to proceed if already pending in court on the effective date of the bill or, if not filed by that date, to be commenced between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2027. Exempts public entities from these provisions.</p>
AB 251 (Kalra), CH. 433 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Elders and dependent adults: abuse or neglect	<p>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 under specified circumstances in cases where the defendant has engaged in spoliation of the evidence substantiating the abuse.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 299 (Gabriel), CH. 531 <i>Effective Date: Effective Immediately</i> Motels, hotels, and short-term lodging: disasters	<p>Declares that the continued occupancy of a resident of a lodging would not be considered a person who hires, nor have their lodging constitute a new tenancy for purposes of an unlawful detainer action, until the guest has resided in the lodging for 270 days, if the guest is residing in the lodging as a result of a disaster, as defined, that substantially damaged, destroyed, or otherwise made uninhabitable their prior housing, as specified. Repeals these provisions on January 1, 2031.</p>
AB 316 (Krell), CH. 672 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Artificial intelligence: defenses	<p>Provides that in an action against a defendant who developed, modified, or used artificial intelligence that is alleged to have caused a harm to the plaintiff, it shall not be a defense, and the defendant may not assert, that the artificial intelligence autonomously caused the harm to the plaintiff.</p>
AB 369 (M. Rodriguez), CH. 33 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Emergency services: liability	<p>Excuses a person who is otherwise not licensed to administer antiseizure rescue medication but who administers antiseizure rescue medication at the scene of an emergency, in good faith and not for compensation, to a person who is experiencing, or is suspected of experiencing, a seizure, from professional review, liability in a civil action, or criminal prosecution for that administration of antiseizure rescue medication so long as the person's conduct is not grossly negligent and does not constitute willful or wanton misconduct.</p>
AB 621 (Bauer-Kahan), CH. 673 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Deepfake pornography	<p>Revises and recasts the existing deepfake cause of action to additionally grant to a depicted individual a cause of action against a person who knows, or reasonably should know, that the depicted individual was a minor when the digitized sexually explicit material was created, and additionally grants a cause of action to that depicted individual against a person who knowingly or recklessly facilitates, aids, or abets conduct prohibited by that provision. Defines "digitized sexually explicit material" to mean any portion of a visual or audiovisual work created or substantially altered through digitization, including an image, that shows the depicted individual in the nude or appearing to engage in, or being subjected to, sexual conduct.</p>
AB 692 (Kalra), CH. 703 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Employment: contracts in restraint of trade	<p>Makes it unlawful to include in any employment contract, or to require a worker to execute as a condition of employment or a work relationship a contract that includes, specified contract terms that require a worker to assume a debt if the employment is terminated, except as provided. Provides a private right of action for violations of the bill.</p>
AB 806 (Connolly), CH. 343 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Mobile homes: cooling systems	<p>Prohibits the termination of tenancy for the installation, upgrade, replacement, or use of a cooling system, and makes any entity that willfully violates this in a subdivision, cooperative, or condominium for mobile homes or a resident-owned mobile home park liable to the homeowner, resident, or other party for actual damages occasioned thereby and for a civil penalty paid to the homeowner, resident, or other party in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
AB 1002 (Gabriel), CH. 567 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Contractors: failure to pay wages: discipline	<p>Authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action to impose discipline on, to deny an application for, or to deny continued maintenance of a contractor's license for failing to pay its workers the full amount of wages the workers are entitled to under state law or because the contractor has not fulfilled a wage judgment or is in violation of an injunction or court order regarding the payment of wages to its workers. Requires the Attorney General to notify the registrar before bringing a civil action, and authorizes the Contractors State License Board to intervene in a proceeding brought under the bill's provisions. Requires a court to issue an order directing the registrar to suspend or revoke, to deny an application for, or to deny the continued maintenance of a contractor's license under terms specified by the court.</p>
AB 1050 (Schultz), CH. 504 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Unlawfully restrictive covenants: housing developments	<p>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.</p>
SB 37 (Umberg), CH. 645 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Attorneys: unlawful solicitations and advertisements	<p>Creates a private right of action to enforce violations of existing prohibitions on misleading attorney advertisements, attorney solicitations, and the use of referral services. Prohibits advertisements by attorneys from containing or referring to misleading, deceptive, or false statements, words, or phrases regarding a lawyer's or a law firm's skills, experience, or record, and would also prohibit an advertisement from containing references to a lawyer's or a law firm's recognition by, or awards from, an organization, unless the recognition or award is not conferred by virtue of being a member of the organization and the organization does not charge or solicit a fee, cost, or payment for the recognition or award.</p>
SB 59 (Wiener), CH. 738 Effective Date: Effective Immediately Change of name or gender and sex identifier	<p>Expands existing confidentiality protections for minors seeking a judgment recognizing a name or gender change to all petitioners regardless of age. Makes court records associated with a proceeding for a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both, confidential. Requires 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, to be kept confidential by the court. Applies if the petition is filed on or after July 1, 2026, if the court orders the records in the proceeding to be kept confidential upon the request of the petitioner for petitions filed before that date, or if the records in the proceeding were previously made confidential by statute or otherwise. Requires the court to limit access to the court records in these proceedings to certain individuals. Prohibits a confidential record from being posted publicly on the internet or otherwise by a person or private entity other than the petitioner. Provides, commencing six months after the operative date of this law, that a petitioner who has been harmed by a disclosure of records by a private person or entity with actual knowledge that those records were made confidential or sealed by the court may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against a private person or entity that caused the harm.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 236 (Weber Pierson), CH. 598 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Cosmetics: chemical hair relaxers	Prohibits any person from manufacturing, distributing, selling, or offering for sale in the state any defined hair relaxer product that contains any of a specified list of intentionally added ingredients, makes a violation of these provisions punishable by administrative or civil penalties, and authorizes the Attorney General to bring an action to enforce the provisions.
SB 243 (Padilla), CH. 677 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Companion chatbots	Requires an operator to prevent a companion chatbot on its companion chatbot platform from engaging with users unless the operator maintains a protocol for preventing the production of suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm content to the user, including but not limited to by providing a notification to the user that refers the user to crisis service providers, including a suicide hotline or crisis text line, if the user expresses suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm. Provides that a person who suffers injury as a result of a violation of this requirement may bring a civil action seeking any of the following: injunctive relief, damages in an amount equal to the greater of actual damages or \$1,000 per violation, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
SB 378 (Wiener), CH. 411 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Online marketplaces: illicit cannabis: reporting and liability	Prohibits, starting July 1, 2026, an online marketplace from engaging in unlawful paid online advertising related to unlicensed sellers of cannabis or cannabis products or intoxicating hemp products. Imposes joint and several liability on an online marketplace that violates that prohibition, and increases the amount that a prevailing plaintiff may recover depending on whether the online marketplace had actual knowledge at the time of the unlawful transaction and whether the harm was suffered by a child. Provides for various affirmative defenses, and authorizes an online marketplace to seek indemnification against an advertiser of cannabis, cannabis products, or intoxicating hemp products that misrepresented to the online marketplace that it was licensed or registered to sell that product.
SB 394 (Allen), CH. 540 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Water theft: fire hydrants	Adds to the list of acts for which a utility may bring a civil cause of action tampering with a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check, or connecting to, diverting water from, or causing water to be diverted from a fire hydrant without authorization from the utility that owns the fire hydrant. Expands the rebuttable presumption for a violation to include if a person tampers with or uses a fire hydrant, fire hydrant meter, or fire detector check without authorization to obtain water and without paying the full lawful charge of the water.
SB 642 (Limón), CH. 468 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Employment: payment of wages	Prohibits an employer from paying employees at wage rates less than the rates paid to employees of another sex, and requires a civil action to recover wages to be commenced no later than three years after the last date the cause of action occurs. Entitles an employee to obtain relief for the entire period of time in which a violation of its provisions exists, not to exceed six years. Specifies that a cause of action occurs when an alleged unlawful compensation decision or practice is adopted, when an individual becomes subject to the decision or practice, or when an individual is affected by the application of the decision or practice.

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 648 (Smallwood-Cuevas), CH. 93 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Employment: gratuities: enforcement	<p>Authorizes the Labor Commissioner to investigate and issue a citation or file a civil action when an employer collected or received any gratuity paid, given to, or left for an employee by a patron, deducted any amount from wages due to an employee on account of a gratuity, or required an employee to credit the amount of a gratuity against the wages from the employer.</p>
SB 676 (Limón), CH. 550 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 California Environmental Quality Act: judicial streamlining: state of emergency: wildfire	<p>Requires an action or proceeding brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification of an environmental impact report, or the adoption of a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, for a project located in a geographic area for which the Governor declared a state of emergency on or after January 1, 2023, to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed by wildfire to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 calendar days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings. Requires an applicant to agree to pay the costs of the trial court and Court of Appeal in hearing and deciding any action or proceeding. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court to implement these requirements.</p>
SB 766 (Allen), CH. 354 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 California Combating Auto Retail Scams (CARS) Act	<p>Enacts the California Combating Auto Retail Scams Act, making it a violation for a dealer to make any misrepresentation regarding material information about specified matters relating to a vehicle sale, including the costs or terms of purchasing, financing, or leasing a vehicle; the availability of vehicles at a total price communicated by the dealer; and the remedy available if a dealer fails to sell or lease a vehicle at the total price. Makes it a violation for a dealer to fail to make certain disclosures clear and conspicuous, including information relating to the total price and any add-on products or services, and exempts a used vehicle sold at an auction. Makes it a violation for a dealer, in connection with the sale or financing of a vehicle, to charge for certain items, including an add-on product or service if the vehicle purchaser or lessee would not benefit from the add-on product or service. Prohibits a dealer from selling or leasing certain used vehicles without providing the purchaser or lessee a three-day right to cancel the purchase or lease.</p>
SB 786 (Arreguín), CH. 526 Effective Date: January 1, 2026 Planning and zoning: general plan: judicial challenges	<p>Limits the period for which a court may continue a trial or hearing on a challenge to a city general plan to no more than 60 days. Authorizes a court to grant one continuance on the court's own motion. Requires a court to grant temporary relief in any instance in which the court orders a continuance rather than only if the court grants a continuance to a respondent. Requires the court to consider ordering additional temporary relief if the court has already granted temporary relief.</p>

BILL NUMBER AND CHAPTER, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND TITLE	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF NEW LAW
SB 808 (Caballero), CH. 527 <i>Effective Date: January 1, 2026</i> Civil Actions: writs: housing development projects	<p>Provides expedited judicial review for denials of permits or other entitlements for housing development projects or residential units at the trial and appellate level. Authorizes a petitioner, the Attorney General, or the Department of Housing and Community Development to file a petition for writ of mandate under these provisions; requires that a hearing be set no later than 45 days after the filing of the writ; requires the court to issue a decision no later than 30 days after the matter is submitted or 75 days after the writ was filed, whichever is earlier; and authorizes the temporary assignment of judicial officers to meet the timelines.</p>

APPENDIX F

2025 BUDGET AND TRAILER BILLS

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AB 100, CH. 2 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Budget Acts of 2023 and 2024
AB 102, CH. 5 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Budget Act of 2025
AB 104, CH. 77 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Budget Act of 2025
AB 116, CH. 21 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Health
AB 118, CH. 7 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Human services
AB 121, CH. 8 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Education finance
AB 123, CH. 9 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Higher education
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AB 136, CH. 11 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Courts
AB 137, CH. 20 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	State government
AB 138, CH. 78 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	State employment: state bargaining units
AB 143, CH. 12 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Developmental services
AB 144, CH. 105 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Health
AB 149, CH. 106 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Public resources
AB 154, CH. 609 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Greenhouse gases: climate corporate accountability: climate-related financial risk: regulations: California Environmental Quality Act exemption

BILL	TITLE/SUBJECT
SB 101, CH. 4 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Budget Act of 2025
SB 103, CH. 6 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Budget Acts of 2022, 2023, and 2024
SB 105, CH. 104 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Budget Acts of 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025
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SB 124, CH. 14 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Public resources
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SB 140, CH. 26 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	State Bargaining Unit 6
SB 141, CH. 18 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	California Cannabis Tax Fund: Department of Cannabis Control: Board of State and Community Corrections grants
SB 142, CH. 19 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program
SB 146, CH. 107 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Human services
SB 147, CH. 744 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Education finance
SB 148, CH. 745 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Higher education

BILL	TITLE/SUBJECT
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SB 156, CH. 110 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Labor
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SB 159, CH. 112 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: exemptions: wildfire
SB 160, CH. 113 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Background checks
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SBX1 3, CH. 2 <i>Effective Immediately</i>	Budget Act of 2024

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