



Judicial Council of California

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M E M O R A N D U M

Date

October 31, 2025

Action Requested

For Your Information

To

Members of the Administrative Presiding
Justices Advisory Committee
Members of the Appellate Advisory
Committee
Appellate Court Clerk/Executive Officers

Deadline

N/A

Contact

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From

Cory T. Jasperson, Director
Governmental Affairs

Subject

Final Report of 2025 Legislation of Interest
to Appellate Courts

Attached please find a chart listing 2025 legislation of interest to appellate courts. Additional legislative information is available online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/.

CTJ/HR/jh

Attachment

cc: Michelle Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council
Robert Oyung, Chief Deputy Director, Judicial Council

APPELLATE CHART 2025

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS as of October 15, 2025
AB 289	Haney	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch. 684)
AB 465	Zbur	Requires a memorandum of understanding between a public agency and a recognized employee organization to include specified provisions including, among other things, a provision providing for a system of progressive discipline that grants due process to an employee when they are disciplined, upon the request of the recognized employee organization. Defines due process for these purposes as a system of discipline in which employees are given notice of the factual basis of their alleged misconduct or performance deficiencies, including the penalty; effective date of the action; causes for discipline; factual allegations of misconduct; predeprivation rights, as required by the California Supreme Court in <i>Skelly v. State Personnel Board</i> (1975) 15 Cal.3d 194, also known as Skelly rights; the right to appeal the action; and a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegations before the imposition of discipline.	Two-year bill
AB 486	Lackey	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch. 367)
AB 531	Rogers	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch. 372)

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BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS as of October 15, 2025
AB 672	Caloza	Grants the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) the right to intervene in a civil action arising from a labor dispute that involves public employees whose labor relations are regulated by PERB and that PERB claims implicate the constitutionality, interpretation, or enforcement of a statute administered by PERB. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court that provide a mechanism for the establishment of a panel of Court of Appeal justices who would be qualified to hear actions that seek to enjoin strikes, work stoppages, or other labor activity by trial court employees, from which a single justice would be assigned to hear the matter in superior court in accordance with certain procedures.	Two-year bill
AB 882	Papan	Authorizes the court to use electronic recording technology in civil proceedings when specified circumstances are met, including, among other things, when a litigant who cannot afford to retain a private court reporter has requested a verbatim record of the proceeding. Requires the court to follow prescribed procedures when the court lacks sufficient reporters or official reporters pro tempore to provide verbatim records, as specified, including, among other things, providing public notice that the court is accepting applications from certified shorthand reporters for positions as official court reporters.	Two-year bill [Judicial Council’s oppose unless amended letter]
AB 1071	Kalra	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch. 721) [Judicial Council’s remove opposition letter]

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BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS as of October 15, 2025
AB 1073	Avila Farías	Extends provisions related to disqualifying a judicial officer for prejudice and promptly reassigning the case from January 1, 2026, until January 1, 2031, to authorize a party or attorney to disqualify a justice of an appellate court for prejudice following reversal by the California Supreme Court of an appellate court’s decision if that justice authored or concurred in the prior decision. Requires the presiding justice of the Court of Appeal, following reversal by the California Supreme Court and remand to a Court of Appeal for further proceedings, other than of a ministerial nature, to assign the case to a panel of three justices and notify the parties of the assignment within 30 days of issuance of the remittitur to the Court of Appeal, as specified. Makes legislative findings that judicial bias occurred in the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 case <i>Pico Neighborhood Assn. v. City of Santa Monica</i> (2023) 15 Cal.5th 292, following the California Supreme Court’s reversal of the Court of Appeal’s decision, through the Court of Appeal’s refusal to follow the instruction of the California Supreme Court. Further requires the California Law Revision Commission, in consultation with the Commission on Judicial Performance, to deliver to the Legislature, by September 30, 2028, a study on the recusal of judicial officers for prejudice and conflict of interest, as specified.	Two-year bill [This bill, substantially similar to AB 2125 from last session, was never set for hearing in Assembly Judiciary Committee. The Judicial Council opposed last session’s bill, which was ultimately held under submission in the Senate Appropriations Committee.]

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BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS as of October 15, 2025
AB 1079	Avila Farías	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch.178)
AB 1234	Ortega	Classifies an appeal filed in a superior court relating to the Labor Commissioner’s order, decision, or award as an unlimited civil case. Grants a court hearing the action jurisdiction over the entire wage dispute, including related wage claims not raised in front of the Labor Commissioner but prohibits the court from consolidating the action with any other actions not arising out of, or related to, the underlying order, decision, or award, absent an executed agreement in writing by all parties.	Two-year bill
ACA 8	Rivas	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 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.)	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch. 156)

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BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS as of October 15, 2025
SB 59	Wiener	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch.738) [Judicial Council’s remove opposition letter]
SB 483	Stern	Requires, when granting pretrial diversion, that the court is satisfied that the recommended mental health treatment program is consistent with the underlying purpose of mental health diversion and the defendant agrees the recommended treatment plan will meet their needs and will comply.	Two-year bill
SB 676	Limón	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, that is 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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch.550) [Judicial Council’s veto request letter]
SB 786	Arreguín	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch.526) [Judicial Council’s remove opposition letter]

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BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS as of October 15, 2025
SB 808	Caballero	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch.527) [Judicial Council’s veto request letter]
SB 809	Durazo	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.	Signed by the Governor (Stats. 2025, ch.659)

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