



The State Bar *of California*

Update on 2023–2024 Legislative Session: Legislation Impacting the State Bar

Hershkowitz, Chief Mission Officer/Legislative Director

Bridget Gramme, Special Counsel, Consumer Protection, Admissions, Access & Inclusion

Board of Trustees, September 19–20, 2024

Agenda

- Highlights of:
 - AB 3279
 - SB 1476
 - AB 2505
 - SB 940
- Status of Board Adopted Affirmative Legislative Proposals



Key Elements of AB 3279: Fee Related Provisions

- \$77 for maintaining existing operations; \$11 for improving public protection
- Ability to change the license renewal period from traditional Dec 1 – Feb 1 window
- Installment payments for attorney with individual gross income below \$60,478.35
- Earmarking more of the legal services contributions for legal services summer fellowships



Key Elements of AB 3279: Non-Licensing Fee Related Provisions:

- Repayment to GF of \$2 million paid to CSF in 2016/2017
- Redirect receipts from FTB Tax Intercept Program to GF in 2025
- Flexibility that allows the State Bar to create an offer and compromise program for reimbursement owed to CSF (language already exists re: discipline costs) and retain 50% of collections in GF in 2025
- Removal of Board members for cause
- Clarification CBE does not oversee legal programs in non-law schools
- Legislative report on complaints related to disability access issues at bar exam test sites
- Salary increase for State Bar Court judges
- Enhanced reporting by financial institutions about Client Trust Accounts
- Simplification of process re: oath cards signed by out-of-state judges
- Adjustments in the costs for LRS certification; authority for LRS orgs to partner with nonprofit organizations



Other Legislation



SB 1476 (Blakespear) –
Political Reform Act



AB 2505 (Gabriel) –
Mandatory Reporting
of Pro Bono



SB 940 (Umberg) –
Certification of ADR
Providers



Board Adopted Priorities and Legislative Proposals

	Included in AB 3279 or SB 1476?
Licensing fee increase*	✓
Enhanced report by financial institutions about client trust accounts	✓
Applicability of Political Reform Act provisions to the State Bar	✓
Removal of Board members for cause	✓
Ability to change the license renewal period from usual Dec 1 – Feb 1 window	✓
Revision of time for submission of next bar exam studies	✓
Modernize LRS certification	✓
Continuation of earmark of legal services contributions for summer fellowships and increase in the amount earmarked	✓
Technical amendment: correction of timing for 2 reports submitted as part of the ADR	✓
Technical amendment: elimination of obsolete reference related to obligation of State bar to collect fees for the California Lawyers Association	✓
CTAPP – Preserving confidentiality of records in compliance reviews and audits	✓



Board Adopted Priorities and Legislative Proposals

	Included in AB 3279 or SB 1476?
Authority to use legal services voluntary contributions more flexibly	X
Continued funding for Homelessness Prevention Grants	X
Clarification CBE does not oversee legal programs in non-law schools	✓
Clarification of statute of limitations to seek judicial review of CSF commission decisions on applications for reimbursement	✓
Amend the process for revocation of a law corporation's State Bar registration	X
Simplification of process re: oath cards signed by out-of-state judges	✓
Use a portion of CSF reserves to support IT modernization and staffing in 2025	✓
Authorize CSF collections to be deposited in the GF*	✓
Permit the State Bar to reduce or waive CSF reimbursements and interest, paving the way for an offer and compromise program	✓



Questions?

