



College of Business, Legal Information Clinic

HIGHLIGHT OF NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE IN 2019

Environment

- Plastic straws only given in full-service restaurants upon request.
- California begins efforts towards 100% renewable energy.
- After a federal effort was blocked, California enacts a state law to limit the use of certain refrigeration chemicals that are linked to climate change.
- Mandate that pharmaceutical industry pay for collection of used medication and needles.

Business

- Secret settlements with employers for sexual assault or harassment are now prohibited.
- Ban on the use of non-disparagement settlements with employers for incidents that happened in the workplace under certain circumstances.
- State officials cannot refuse a professional license to someone who has a low-level or nonviolent criminal record.
- Any publicly traded corporation headquartered in California must have at least a small number of women on its board of directors.
- It is now illegal for anyone to use an online “bot” for tricking Californians into thinking a real person is peddling a product or seeking to influence an election.
- California will begin implementing its own net neutrality rules so that internet providers cannot block content or alter the speed of internet traffic.

Criminal

- Sidewalk food vendors will have new statewide protections while also being required to follow local rules.
- The state will be required to help Californians clear marijuana-related convictions from their criminal records.
- Many police misconduct records will be available for public inspection.
- More police body camera footage available for public inspection.
- An accomplice to a killing can no longer be charged with felony murder.
- For the first time, California has a minimum age — 12 years old — at which most children can be tried in court for a crime. Court would remain an option for those charged with violent crimes such as murder or rape.
- Children under the age of 16 will no longer be tried in adult courts.
- No one under the age of 21 can purchase a rifle or shotgun in California.
- There will be a lifetime gun ban for anyone convicted of serious domestic assault.
- There will be a lifetime gun ban for anyone hospitalized more than once in a year for mental health problems.
- The state requires new gun safety training for anyone who obtains a concealed weapons permit.

Contact the COB, Legal Information Clinic for more information about these and other new laws effective in 2019

Email: cba-legal-info-clinic@csulb.edu