

MEMORANDUM 2025-15

2025 Legislative Program (Status Report)

This memorandum discusses the Commission's 2025 Legislative Program. This memorandum typically describes the staff's efforts to identify legislative authors and vehicles to implement Commission-recommended reforms.¹

However, the Commission does not have any new final recommendations and therefore the staff will not seek to introduce legislation effectuating a Commission recommendation by the February 21, 2025 bill introduction deadline. While the Commission did issue a [final report](#) on [Landlord Tenant Terminology – Study H-109](#) in December 2024, the Commission did not recommend changes to existing law. But, the studies on the [Equal Rights Amendment – Study I-100](#) and [State and Local Agency Access to Customer Information from Communication Service Providers – Study G-300](#), could result in final reports including recommendations for legislation in 2026. Two legislative offices have expressed interest in carrying legislation enacting the final recommendations from those studies in 2026.

PROPOSED NEW ASSIGNMENTS

[AB 1073](#) (Farias) was introduced in February 2025 and assigns the Commission a new study. AB 1703 is nearly identical to the April 10, 2024 version of [AB 2125](#) (Garcia, 2024), which was held under submission in the Senate Appropriations Committee. AB 1703 requires the Commission to study the recusal of judicial officers for prejudice and conflict of interest. Essentially, AB 1703 would expand existing judicial officer removal rules to appellate justices whose decisions are reversed by the California Supreme Court in cases remanded to the appellate court for additional action.

More specifically, the bill would require the Commission to study judicial recusal as follows:

¹ Any California Law Revision Commission document referred to in this memorandum can be obtained from the Commission. Recent materials can be downloaded from the Commission's website (www.clrc.ca.gov). Other materials can be obtained by contacting the Commission's staff, through the website or otherwise.

The Commission welcomes written comments at any time during its study process. Any comments received will be a part of the public record and may be considered at a public meeting. However, comments that are received less than five business days prior to a Commission meeting may be presented without staff analysis.

(a) On or before September 30, 2028, the California Law Revision Commission shall deliver to the Legislature a study regarding recusal of judicial officers for prejudice and conflict of interest.

(b) In developing the study required by this section, the California Law Revision Commission shall consult with the Commission on Judicial Performance.

(c) The study shall, at minimum, include a discussion of the following:

(1) The effectiveness of Section 170.6 [of the Code of Civil Procedure] in eliminating bias in judicial proceedings.

(2) The prevalence of judicial officers hearing matters in which the canons of judicial ethics should have warranted a recusal.

(3) The impact on case hearing times of judicial recusals.

(4) The costs to the courts and to litigants of judicial recusals.

The staff will continue to monitor this bill and provide updates to the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

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