Legis. Prog. October 23, 2025

MEMORANDUM 2025-47

2025 Legislative Program (Final Report)

This memorandum discusses the Commission's 2025 Legislative Program.¹ This memorandum typically describes the staff's efforts to identify legislative authors and vehicles to implement Commission-recommended reforms, and the status of introduced bills that would implement those reforms.

However, as noted in Memorandum 2025-15, the Commission did not approve any new final recommendations for which implementing legislation might be introduced prior to the bill introduction deadline of February 21, 2025, and therefore has no report on any 2025 implementing legislation. While the Commission did issue a final report² on Landlord and Tenant Terminology (Study H-109) in December 2024, that report did not recommend changes to existing law.

But, at its meeting on June 26, 2025, the Commission approved a final recommendation on State and Local Agency Access to Customer Information from Communication Service Providers (Study G-300), which includes a legislative proposal.³ Further, at its meeting on September 18, 2025, the Commission approved a final recommendation on Equal Rights Amendment (Study I-100), which also includes a legislative proposal. The staff is seeking legislators to carry legislation implementing these final recommendations in 2026.

Possible New Assignment

AB 1073 (Avila Farías) was introduced on February 20, 2025, and would direct the Commission to study the recusal of judicial officers for prejudice and conflict of interest. AB 1073 is nearly identical to AB 2125 (Garcia, 2024), which was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee last year.

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 (<u>www.clrc.ca.gov</u>). 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.

² <u>Landlord and Tenant Terminology</u> (Preprint October 2024).

³ Minutes (June 2025), p. 4 and <u>State and Local Agency Access to Customer Information from Communication Service Providers</u> (Preprint – June 2025).

- (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 bill is currently in the Assembly Judiciary Committee, where it did not receive a hearing by the policy committee deadline of May 2, 2025. While the bill did not move forward during the regular legislative process in 2025, the author could seek to get the bill out of the Assembly in January 2026 under a narrow provision of the <u>Joint Rules of the Senate and the Assembly for the 2025-26 Regular Session</u> (Joint Rules). ⁴ The staff will continue to monitor this bill and provide updates to the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Reilly Executive Director

⁴ Joint Rule 61(c) provides: "Any bill in the house of origin that is not acted upon during the odd-numbered year as a result of the deadlines imposed in subdivision (a) may be acted upon when the Legislature reconvenes after the interim study joint recess, or at any time the Legislature is recalled from the interim study joint recess." Because AB 1703 missed the policy committee deadline for 2025, it may move forward in 2026, subject to the requirement that the bill moves out of the Assembly by January 1, 2026.