

CALIFORNIA LAW REVISION COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE
June 25, 2019
For Immediate Release

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California Public Records Act Clean-Up

Request for Public Comment

The California Public Records Act ("CPRA") was enacted in 1968 to promote public access to public records, while also recognizing competing interests. In enacting the CPRA, the Legislature, "mindful of the right of individuals to privacy," found and declared that "access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state."

Since its enactment, the CPRA has been revised over and over again, in piecemeal fashion. This has resulted in a statute that is poorly organized and cumbersome for members of the public to use and understand, impeding fulfillment of the goals underlying the CPRA.

To address that problem, the Legislature asked the Law Revision Commission to study the CPRA on a priority basis and prepare a report containing recommended legislation that would make the CPRA more user-friendly, without changing its substance.

The Commission has been studying the CPRA as directed. It has prepared a tentative recommendation for stakeholders and other interested persons to review. In preparing the tentative recommendation, the Commission took great care to ensure that the proposed recodification of the CPRA would not make any substantive change in the law.

The Commission seeks comments on its tentative recommendation, which is available at <http://www.clrc.ca.gov/G400.html>. It is just as important to say that you support the tentative recommendation as it is to say that you oppose it. Comments from knowledgeable persons (whether positive, negative, or more nuanced) are crucial in the Commission's study process.

The Commission often substantially revises its recommendations as a result of public comment. Comments can be in any format. To receive timely consideration, **comments should be submitted to bgaal@clrc.ca.gov by August 26, 2019.**