

Vy Accountancy Corporation

Member, American Institute of CPAs

704 Mira Monte Place, Pasadena, California 91101

Tel (626) 744-0200 • Fax (626) 744-0300 • vsy@victorycpa.com • www.victorycpa.com

CALIFORNIA NEW STATE LAWS FOR 2010

Air Safety: Allows airports to kill birds that pose a danger to aircraft without violating state fish and game laws.

Burial Fees: Allows state-owned cemeteries to waive the fees for interment of the spouses and children of honorably discharged veterans if they determine the families cannot pay the costs.

Charter Schools: Allows such schools access to about \$900 million in voter-approved bond money for construction. A separate law gives districts more incentive to approve them by cutting red tape.

College Violence: Allows universities to obtain restraining orders on behalf of students against a person who has threatened them with violence.

Delta Restoration: Creates a new Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy to oversee restoration of the failing delta ecosystem. Sets goals of "providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the delta ecosystem." Part of the larger water package.

Dog Fights: Raises the maximum penalties against those convicted of being spectators at dogfights, subjecting them to as much as a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Drunk Driving: Creates a test program in four counties, including Los Angeles County, in which judges can require that first-time drunk-driving offenders install a breath-testing device on every vehicle they own and pass a test on it before the vehicle will start.

Education: Allows school and student performance data to be used to judge the quality of instruction. The change will allow California to compete for federal Race to the Top education grants.

Fat In Food: Requires restaurants to use oils, margarine and shortening with less than half a gram of trans fat per serving of regular foods. The standard will apply to deep-fried bakery goods next year. Trans fat has been linked to heart disease.

Football Stadium: Exempts a professional football stadium proposed in the City of Industry from state environmental laws, so it can proceed despite a lawsuit filed by opponents.

Fire Prevention: Requires government officials to improve guidelines for protecting property from wildfires, including larger brush-clearance zones and better access roads in regions vulnerable to such fires.

Fire Safety: In response to evacuation problems during a 2008 wildfire that destroyed dozens of mobile homes in the San Fernando Valley, a new law requires owners of mobile home parks to adopt and post notice of an emergency preparedness plan.

Gangs: Allows tougher penalties, including a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to a year in jail, for gang members who return to school campuses within 72 hours of being asked to leave.

Gasoline: Increases the underground storage fee paid by gas retailers to help fund grants and loans to those who need to meet tank cleanup rules and install devices that capture more vapor from gas nozzles.

Gay Marriage: Recognizes same-sex marriages performed in other states before California voters banned gay marriage in 2008 by approving Proposition 8.

High-Speed Rail: Requires the state's High-Speed Rail Authority to prepare, publish and adopt a business plan by

Jan. 1, 2012, and every two years thereafter, so the public knows how its money is being spent.

Hospital Fee: Imposes a new fee on hospitals to make them eligible for \$2 billion in federal funds. The funds are subsidies for Medi-Cal, the state's health insurance program for the poor.

Human Trafficking: Quadruples the fine, to \$20,000, for those convicted of human-trafficking crimes and allows law enforcement officers to seize traffickers' assets.

Inhalants: Makes it a misdemeanor for a person to sell or furnish products containing nitrous oxide to a minor.

Liquor Ads: Waives rules prohibiting indoor alcohol advertisements in one club that sells the featured products: Club Nokia, a downtown Los Angeles venue owned by billionaire Philip Anschutz.

Mammogram Safety: Requires facilities that operate mammogram machines to post any notices of "serious violations" they may receive in an area visible to patients. Serious violations are those posing a significant threat to public health.

Mortgage Crimes: Creates a new offense, "mortgage fraud," punishable by up to a year in prison. Such crimes are defined as those in which someone makes "any misstatement, misrepresentation or omission during the mortgage lending process with the intention that it be relied on by a mortgage lender, borrower, or any other party to the mortgage lending process."

Office Bets: Changes the penalty for participation in a non-commercial or office "sports betting pool" from a misdemeanor, punishable by fines up to \$1,000, to an infraction, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250.

Plastic Surgery: Enacts the Donda West law, named after the deceased mother of rapper Kanye West, that prohibits elective cosmetic surgery unless the patient is first cleared by a physical examination.

Prostitution Arrests: Allows local government agencies to impound vehicles used in the commission of prostitution-related crimes.

Rental Cars: Allows car-rental companies to recover from customers an increase made last year in the vehicle license fee from 0.65% to 1.15%.

School Books: Expands the use of digital textbooks in public schools by allowing districts to use textbook money to buy electronic viewing devices.

School Buses: Extends to school buses the \$300 penalty already applicable to commercial vehicles that idle too long. Existing clean-air regulations prohibit school buses from idling for more than five minutes within 100 feet of a school, but the fine has been \$100.

School Safety: Makes it a misdemeanor to possess a razor blade or box cutter on school grounds.

Teen Voting: Permits a California resident who is 17 to pre-register to vote.

Toll Roads: Allows toll road operators to use license-plate-reading technology to bill motorists who use their roads.

Used Car Sales: Bars car dealers from selling a used vehicle until action is taken to cover any previous loan or lease obligations held by a previous owner. Also boosts by \$25 fees for dealers' state business licenses.

Vietnam Veterans: Establishes an annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30.

Water Softeners: Allows local governments to ban residential water softeners if regulators find that salts discharged into municipal sewer lines pose a pollution problem.