

Sy Accountancy Corporation

704 Mira Monte Place, Pasadena, California 91101
Tel (626) 744-0200 • Fax (626) 744-0300 • vsy@victorsycpa.com

NEW CALIFORNIA LAWS FOR 2012

By Victor Sy, CPA, MBA

- **ATHLETE CONCUSSION:** Schools are required to remove a student athlete who sustains a possible concussion from field of play. Athlete needs medical clearance before returning to competition.
- **BALLOT INITIATIVES MOVED TO NOVEMBER:** All ballot initiatives are moved from June primaries to November general elections.
- **BOOKS READ OR PURCHASED OVER THE INTERNET:** Government and third parties are prohibited from gathering information about what books you read or buy over the Internet.
- **CAFFEINATED BEER:** Sale of caffeinated beer is illegal.
- **CHILD BOOSTER SEAT:** New booster seat law requires that any child under 8 years old (used to be 6 years old?) be secured in an appropriate child restraint.
- **CHILD RIGHTS:** Allows courts to consider the relationship between a child and a non-biological parent when considering child rights cases involving birth parents, adoptive parents, and gay or lesbian guardians.
- **COUGH MEDICINES:** Minors will need a prescription to buy Robitussin, NyQuil, Dimetapp or any drug containing dextromethorphan.
- **CREDIT CHECKS FOR EMPLOYMENT:** New law prohibits potential employers from accessing credit reports.
- **PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE:** Women may take up to four months' pregnancy disability leave.
- **GAY BULLYING:** Requires school districts to create and follow a uniform process for dealing with gay bullying complaints. School personnel must intervene if they witness bullying of gay and lesbian students.
- **HANDGUN BAN:** Openly carried weapons are now illegal. Violators are subject to \$1,000 plus six months in jail.
- **INFANT FOOD:** Stores will be banned from selling *expired* infant food and formula.
- **RECYCLING SERVICES AT APARTMENTS:** Landlords are required to provide recycling services for tenants.
- **SALES TAX ON INTERNET SALES:** Internet retailers must collect California sales tax on transactions if the retailer has a presence in the state.
- **SHARK FINS:** It's illegal to sell or distribute shark fins. Law is designed to prevent slaughter of sharks.
- **TANNING BEDS:** Anyone under 18 years is prohibited from using tanning beds.
- **VEHICLE IMPOUND AT SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS:** Law enforcement agencies are banned from impounding a vehicle at a sobriety checkpoint if the only offense is the lack of a valid driver's license.