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NEW LAWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. Beer

May be produced with honey, fruit juice, herbs, or other foods to assist fermentation, and manufacturers may give away glassware to retailers and are exempt from registering as food processors.

2. Borrowing

Small consumer loan interest must not exceed 36% annually plus the federal funds rate.

3. Gambling

Adults under 21 can now work in casinos if not involved in controlled games.

4. Ticket Sellers

May not circumvent security systems when selling event admissions.

5. Pawnbrokers

Their fees are now restricted.

6. Student Alcohol

They may taste but not consume alcohol if enrolled at qualified academic institutions.

7. Bestiality

It is now criminal to have any sexual contact with any animal, dead or alive.

8. Debit Card Refunds

Retailers offering such must provide customers with at least one other form of payment.

9. College Athletes

Can now hire endorsement agents if allowed by the NCAA.

10. Horseracing

The State Board can suspend a track's license when necessary to protect horses or riders.

11. Moral Character

In determining "moral" qualification to practice law, mental health records cannot be considered.

12. Revenge Porn

There is now a private right to sue one disclosing sexually explicit material without consent.

13. Process Servers

Can now require security personnel of multi-unit dwellings to admit them to serve subpoenas or process.

15. Re-hiring

Employment dispute settlement agreements cannot prohibit rehiring the worker.

16. Data Brokers

Must now register with the Attorney General.

17. Litigation

Courts can impose enhanced sanctions if certain requested documents are not produced during civil court cases.

18. Pets

Compensation for temporary pet housing is now recoverable by a human crime victim from a State Fund, and pet insurers must now provide certain disclosures when issuing policies.

19. Circuses

Cannot be operated if they use any animal except dogs, cats, or horses.

20. Future Damages

In personal injury or death cases, damage calculations shall not consider race, ethnicity, or gender.

21. Poetry

There will now be a Youth Poet Laureate of California.

22. Roadkill

Can now be taken for human consumption in certain circumstances.

23. Optometrists

Can now treat homebound patients at their residences.

24. Athletes

Cannot return to activity until cleared by a healthcare provider after fainting or passing out.

25. Discrimination,

Claims for employment harassment or retaliation based on race, nationality, gender, religion, age, disability, or health can now be filed within three years.

26. Psychotherapists

Licenseses must disclose to clients where they can submit professional complaints.

27. Student Health

Public universities providing health services after 2022 must offer onsite abortion by medication.

28. Fire Risk

Until 2021, real estate sellers must disclose if land is in a "hazard severity zone".

29. C C & R's

Provisions are void if unreasonably restrict construction of accessory dwelling units.

30. Religious Displays

Cannot be prohibited by landowners in specified areas.

31. Parking

Where minimum spaces are required for land use, spots reserved for electric charging are included, and indigents must be provided installment plans for costly parking tickets.

32. Auto Damage

Policyholders may choose between having insurers pay to repair their cars or the equivalent cash value.

33. Employment Contracts

Cannot compel workers to waive the right to a trial.

34. Used Tires

Repair dealers are now prohibited from installing if unsafe.

35. Baseball

Stadium workers are not considered terminated at the end of a professional season.

36. Youth Football

Full contact practices are now limited to 30 minutes a day, twice weekly; a designated person must be present to evaluate tackled players; and a medical professional must attend all games.

37. Lactation

Worker rights to accommodation requests are expanded.

38. Telehealth

Insurers must reimburse providers on the same basis as "in-person" providers.

39. College Scandal

Admission-scheme-related payments to charities are not deductible.

40. Student Loans

Debts canceled when a school closes before course completion are not taxable to the students.

41. Car Rentals

Failure to return on time is considered embezzlement after three days, no longer five.

42. Car Computers

It is criminal to hack computer systems in vehicles.

Remember: Preventative lawyering is the most effective kind.

Sincerely,

HARMON SIEFF