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NEW LAWS FOR THE NEW YEAR
(Part Two)

Thanks to the Daily Journal, we now present Part Two of our annual "New Laws" newsletter.

11. Restaurants - Can no longer dispense single-use utensils absent a specific customer request, but can continue selling "to-go" cocktails, using parking lots for expanded seating, and serving alcohol in small parks.

12. Leaf Blowers - The sale of gas-powered lawn equipment and off-road engines is banned after 2023.

13. Pawn Shops - There is a temporary exemption from sales tax for those who repurchase their own items from a pawnbroker.

14. Elections - Officials must mail ballots to every registered California voter.

15. Terminology - The word "alien" has been eliminated from state laws and replaced with "person who is not a citizen".

16. Traffic - Cities have greater authority to reduce local speed limits based on local conditions.

17. Health Care - Insurers and plans must reduce wait times for mental health and substance abuse patients, but with proper notice to members, some may provide remote mental health services.

18. Emotional Support Animals - Sellers of emotional support dogs must explicitly advise purchasers that the animals do not entitle owners to the rights and privileges applicable to service dogs; misrepresenting such information is a misdemeanor.

19. Labor - Piece rate compensation for garment workers is prohibited; warehouses are prohibited from punishing workers who take bathroom breaks or mandatory rest periods, enforceable by new

worker rights procedures; and rulings of the Labor Commission can now be secured by a real estate lien.

20. Construction - General contractors are now liable for penalties, damages, and interest imposed on their subcontractors and can be disciplined for the improper disposal of construction materials or debris.

21. Holidays - Columbus Day will now be known as Native American Day.

22. Fishing - Licenses can now be issued on a year-round basis and displayed on a cell phone.

23. Firearms - Minors over 15 with valid hunting licenses may possess guns, but "ghost gun" components are subject to seizure pursuant to a domestic violence restraining order.

24. Security - A licensed alarm company must publish its contact information on a website instead of simply advertising.

25. Sports - Regular volunteers to youth service organizations must complete a child abuse identification training course and undergo a background check.

26. Massage - The regulatory council for therapists has been authorized to operate for another year.

27. Tickets - Refunds must be made within 30 days of a canceled event.

28. Barbering - The Board of Cosmetology has adopted new regulations.

29. Gambling - A person employed only to serve or prepare food is not considered a "gambling enterprise employee" subject to the Gambling Control Commission.

30. Biology - There is now a private cause of action for damages against a person who misuses sperm, human eggs, or embryos, including attorney's fees to a prevailing plaintiff.

31. Contracts - A minor cannot consent to an agreement without presenting a proper parental consent; an organization which is a judgment debtor must identify a natural person to appear at a debtor examination; and debt collectors must notify debtors of an assignment of a delinquent account.

32. Licensees - Continuing education for real estate agents and nurses must include training regarding implicit bias.

33. Wrongful Death - The successor in interest of a deceased person has a right to recover damages for the pain and suffering sustained by the decedent while alive.

34. Computers - The statute of limitations is extended for unlawfully accessing computer services, but parties may obtain marriage licenses and lawful weddings remotely.

35. Abortion - It is now unlawful to record or photograph patients or providers within one hundred feet of a facility providing such services.

36. Revenge Porn - The statute of limitations for litigating such claims is extended until four years after an image was distributed.

37. Taxes - There is an excise tax on e-cigarettes; penalties on delinquent property taxes are canceled if caused by a "shelter-in place" order; and the phone tax which funds high-speed Internet service in under-served areas of the State has been extended.

38. Labeling - Olive oil must specify its geographical origin, and non-flushable wipes must be conspicuously labeled.

This practice serves as a "lawyer of first resort", or "primary care attorney," advocating for small businesses and individuals with disputes and transactions, and specializes in personalized service. If you encounter legal issues, consider contacting us as soon as a question is identified.

Remember: Preventative lawyering is the most effective kind.

Sincerely,



HARMON SIEFF

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