
G. A Brief Overview of Selected California Statutes

Many California statutes have long on complex histories that are not immediately apparent in a quick review of the current Codes. As an aid to your research, on this page we identify some code provisions with complex amendment histories that frequently are important to attorneys. The Code Sections discussed on this page are organized in alphabetical order by Code. For a few we summarize the history but for most of the sections listed we simply identify the original derivation. **For all the sections listed detailed breakdowns are available by Fax or e-mail upon request.**

Business and Professions Code Section 7031 – This section governing contractors right to sue to enforce their contracts has a long and complex history that dates back to the first Contractors licensing law in 1929.

Business and Professions Code Sections 16700 to 16758 – The Cartwright Act - These sections were enacted in 1941 but parts of this body of law can be traced back to the original Cartwright Act in 1907. Numerous amendments have affected one or more of these sections since 1941.

Business and Professions Code Sections 17000 to 17101 – The Unfair Practices Act – These sections were enacted in 1941 based on law that began evolving with a 1913 enactment. Much of the basic law evolved in the 1930's, and many amendments have occurred since 1941.

Business and Professions Code Sections 17200 to 17209 – Most of these sections were enacted in 1977, but 17208 was enacted as new law at that time. 17200 to 17207 were all simply moved over from Civil Code Sections. The basic law was first enacted in 1933. The law was explicitly expanded to include the unfair practices act in 1949. The word "unlawful" was added in 1963. In 1972 "deceptive advertising" was explicitly included in the act and DA's were authorized to bring actions. In 1974 City Attorneys of large cities were authorized to bring actions. In 1976 DA's were authorized to bring Civil actions, and the remedies were expanded beyond simple injunctive relief. 17209 was enacted in 1992.

Business and Professions Code Sections 17500 to 17539 – False Advertising – These sections were enacted in 1941 based on law that began evolving with a 1905 enactment. Many amendments have occurred since 1941.

Civil Code Section 52– This basic provision of the Unruh Act derives from 1905 legislation with many amendments over the intervening years.

Civil Code Sections 1750 to 1785 - These sections were enacted in 1970, and the definitional section and a few other sections have been significantly amended since that time.

Civil Code Section 2941 – Derived from legislation originally enacted in 1850 with a number of subsequent amendments.

Civil Code 3342 - The basic language in the California Dog Bite statute was enacted in 1931, and the language regarding dog bites by police dogs was added in 1988.

CCP 1021.5 - This statute authorizing attorney fees in cases resulting in a public benefit was enacted in 1977 and amended in 1993.

CCP 1280 et sequence -These arbitration provisions were largely enacted in 1961, but much of the language was drawn from earlier arbitration statutes in the 1850's and 1920's. Some amendments have occurred since 1961.

Government Code Section 6254(f) –This law regarding disclosure of law enforcement records has been subject to many amendments since Section 6254 first appeared in 1968.

Government Code Sections 12650 to 12655 –The false claims act was enacted in 1987 and has since been amended seven times and was subject to an unsuccessful voter initiative on one occasion.

Health and Safety Code Sections 33459 to 33459.8 – The Polanco Redevelopment Act derives from 1990 legislation and has been amended substantively four times, and technically amended on a couple of additional times.

Labor Code - Workers Compensation Act - The first workers compensation act in California was enacted in 1911. It was a toothless (voluntary) effort, so the Legislature in 1913 enacted a much stronger measure that forms the basis for our modern workers compensation laws, with amendments in 1915 and 1917 further strengthening the act. Much of the language of the modern law derives from these early twentieth century enactments.