

Language Included in AB 3249 – State Bar Annual Fee Bill

Section 6001.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

6001.1. Protection of the public *public, which includes support for greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system*, shall be the highest priority for the State Bar of California and the board of trustees in exercising their licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

Section 6001.3 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read: 6001.3.

(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State Bar maintain its commitment to and support of effective policies and activities to enhance access, fairness, and diversity in the legal profession and the elimination of bias in the practice of law.

(b) The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) The rich diversity of the people of California requires a justice system that is equally accessible and free of bias and is a core value of the legal profession.

(2) Diversity and inclusion are an integral part of the State Bar's public protection mission to build, retain, and maintain a diverse legal profession to provide quality and culturally sensitive services to an ever-increasing diverse population.

(3) Diversity increases public trust and confidence and the appearance of

(4) The State Bar should continue to increase diversity and inclusion in the

(c) The State Bar shall develop and implement a plan to meet the goals set forth in this section, which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of needed revenue and shall include a review of the impact of the passing score of the bar examination on the diversity of the legal profession. The State Bar shall prepare and submit a report to the Legislature, by March 15, 2019, and every two years thereafter, on the plan and its implementation, including a description of activities undertaken to support the plan, their outcomes, and their effectiveness.