

FOOD

AB 1884: Plastic straws

[Plastic straws](#) are going the way of plastic bags. Dine-in restaurants in the state will be prohibited from giving out single-use plastic straws unless they are requested by a customer. Businesses that don't comply will be fined \$25 a day and up to \$300 a year.

SB 1192: Children's meals

Restaurants with children's meals can no longer offer sugary drinks, such as juice and soda, as the primary choice in their menus. The default option will be milk, water or flavored water with no added sweeteners. Kids can still order sugary drinks if wanted.

SB 946: Street food vendors

Street vendors will have more freedom to sell food. Cities and counties will not be able to ban sidewalk vendors but they can set up a licensing system to regulate them. Vendors who violate local laws can only be punished with a fine or citation, and cannot face criminal charges.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW STREET FOOD VENDOR LAW](#)

SB 1164: Craft distillers

Craft distillers will be able to operate more like wineries. Starting in 2019, small-batch craft distilleries can sell whiskey, vodka and other spirits directly to customers. Right now, consumers must first take a tour or sign up for a tasting to buy alcohol.

SB 1138: Vegetarian meals

There will be more meal options for people in hospitals. Healthcare facilities will now have to offer plant-based meals to patients. Prisons will also be included in the new meal requirement.

AB 626: Home food businesses

Anyone who can cook can start a business under this new law. It allows people to sell food they make in their home kitchens to the public. They can also prepare dinners in their homes for paying guests. The home kitchens must undergo food safety inspections. The food must be sold directly to consumers, and cannot be part of a delivery service.

RELATED: [Road safety: New California laws going into effect on Jan. 1, 2019](#)

WORK RULES

Minimum Wage:

The state [minimum wage](#) gets another boost to \$11 an hour for people working at companies with 25 or fewer employees, and to \$12 an hour for those working at companies with 26 or more employees.

AB 1976: Breast milk

Employers must provide an area other than a bathroom for new mothers to express [breast milk](#). The area must be private and within close proximity to the employee's work space.

SB 1252: Work personnel file

Employees wanting a look at their employment records will be able to do more than just see them at their human resources office. They will be able to request a personal copy of their employment file.

SB 826: Women on board of directors

Publicly-traded companies are being put on notice. They must have at least one woman in their board of directors by the end of 2019 and two or more women in their board of directors by 2021.

PETS

AB 2274: Divorce and pets

Judges will be able to decide who gets custody of a family pet during a divorce. The judge will consider factors like who takes care or feeds the pet.

AB 485: Pet stores

Pet stores will be prohibited from selling live animals like dogs, cats or rabbits that come from breeders. The animals must be obtained from an animal shelter and the store must post the name of the agency where it got the animal.

[MORE INFORMATION ON ADOPTION OF ANIMALS FROM PET STORES](#)

TRANSPORTATION

AB 2989: Electric scooters

Adults 18 or older will be allowed to ride [electric scooters without a helmet](#). The new law also increases the speed limit for scooters from 25 to 35 mph. It would still be illegal to ride a motorized scooter on a sidewalk.

AB 3077: Helmet use by minors

On the flip side, minors under 18 who are caught riding a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or skates without a helmet [will get a citation](#). Violators can take a safety course to clear the ticket, and show they have a helmet within 120 days of the citation to avoid paying a fine.

AB 1755: Bicycling crashes

Bicyclists could face felony hit-and-run charges if they leave the scene of an accident where someone was injured or died.

SB 1014: Ride-hailing vehicles

Your Uber ride will have to be a cleaner one. Ride-hailing companies will have to meet higher emission standards. Companies like Uber and Lyft will have to increase the number of zero-emission vehicles on its platform and do more to encourage passengers to pool their rides.

AB 2886: Ride-hailing drivers

Ride-hailing apps will be required to provide passengers with the driver's name, picture, image of the vehicle and license plate number.

AB 516: License plates

Auto dealers will now be required to place a temporary license plate on newly purchased vehicles. It is estimated the state loses out on collecting \$19 million a year on tolls from recently purchased vehicles that don't have a license plate.

SB 1046: DUI offenders

Repeat and first-time DUI offenders will be [required to install an ignition interlock device](#) to prevent a person who has been drinking alcohol from driving a vehicle. The device must be installed for 12 to 48 months to restore driving privileges, but the driver will no longer face restrictions to where they can drive.

AB 2685: Habitual truants

Juvenile court judges will no longer have the ability to suspend the driver's license of a minor who is a habitual truant.

HOV lane decals

Green and white decals that allow low-emission vehicles to use HOV lanes will expire. Vehicles issued green or white decals after January 1, 2017 must apply for a red decal. The DMV will issue purple decals in 2019.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE HOV LANE CHANGES](#)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

AB 2504: Police officer LGBTQ training

Police officers and dispatchers must undergo special training to better understand the [LGBTQ](#) community. The training will teach officers the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, and how to create an inclusive work environment in police departments.

SB 1421: Police officer records

The veil is being lifted from police officer records. This new law allows inspection of an officer's record during investigations of police shootings, use of force, sexual misconduct, dishonesty or misconduct by an officer.

SB 1391: Teens in prison

Teens under 16 will no longer go to adult prisons. They would be incarcerated in juvenile facilities even if they commit a serious offense.

ENTERTAINMENT

AB 2020: Cannabis events

California is loosening its rules on where people can smoke [cannabis](#). Festivals, museums, nightclubs and other venues will be able to host special events where people can purchase and consume cannabis. Currently, only county fairgrounds are allowed to host these special events.

AB 2215: Pets & Cannabis

Veterinarians will be allowed to discuss the use of [cannabis](#) with their clients, but vets will not be allowed to administer cannabis to animals.

LGBTQ

SB 179: Gender of driver's license

A person applying for a driver's license or an identification card can choose a gender category of male, female or non-binary. Anyone wishing to change their gender can make an appointment after January 2, 2019.

TECHNOLOGY

SB 822: Net neutrality

Even though California passed a net neutrality law, don't get carried away with streaming videos just yet. Internet service providers like Comcast and AT&T cannot block, slow down or charge to use these websites. The new law guarantees equal access to streaming services and websites that require higher bandwidths and prohibits ISPs from exempting their own services from data caps. This is all great for consumers, but it is on hold for now. California has agreed not to enforce the law until a lawsuit challenging the FCC's decision to reverse Obama era net neutrality rules is resolved in federal court.

ENVIRONMENT

SB 100: Green energy

Under this new law, public utilities must implement a plan to incorporate renewable energy resources. The goal is to generate 60 percent of the state's electricity from sources like wind and solar by 2030, and 100 percent from climate-friendly resources by 2045. (SB 100)

AB 1775 & SB 834: Offshore oil production

This is California's pushback on the Trump administration's decision to lift a ban on new oil drilling off the coast. The law prohibits the California State Lands Commission from approving or renewing leases for the construction of pipelines and docks that could be used to increase the production of oil and natural gas in federal waters.

EDUCATION

AB 1974: High school diplomas

Public schools can't withhold high school diplomas for students with past-due bus fares, overdue library books or unpaid uniforms.

AB 3922: Deported students

Retroactively grants high school diplomas to seniors who have been deported.

ELECTIONS

AB 216: Mail-in ballots

Election departments must now include a return envelope with prepaid postage for vote-by-mail ballots.

SB 568: Presidential primary

Moves up California's 2020 primary to the first Tuesday in March to have more influence in the presidential primaries.

GUNS

SB 1100: Firearm sales to minors

The minimum age to buy a rifle or shotgun in California increases from 18 to 21 years. Anyone under 21 wanting to buy a rifle or shotgun must do so before January 20, 2019 and pick up the firearm before the law is implemented on February 1.

AB 2103: Concealed weapons

Consumers wanting a license to carry a concealed weapon in public must undergo 8 hours of firearms training.

AB 1525: Firearms warning labels

Firearms will come with warning labels that state, "Firearms must be handled responsibly and securely stored to prevent access by children and unauthorized users." The warnings will also be posted at gun stores.