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THIRD READING

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Bill No: AB 1225  
Author: Bennett (D), et al.  
Amended: 5/5/25 in Assembly  
Vote: 21

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SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/24/25  
AYES: Limón, Seyarto, Allen, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25  
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** State parks: Accessibility Advisory Committee

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill requires the Director of Parks and Recreation (director) to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing federal law:

- 1) Establishes the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (42 United States Code §§ 12101 *et seq.*). Pursuant to ADA:
  - a) Congress finds that physical or mental disabilities in no way diminish a person's right to fully participate in all aspects of society; and
  - b) No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases, or leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation.

Existing state law:

- 1) Provides, pursuant to the state Unruh Civil Rights Act, that all persons, regardless of disability or medical condition, among other things, are entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind (Civil Code § 51(b)).
- 2) Provides that, pursuant to the state Disabled Persons Act, individuals with disabilities or medical conditions have the same rights as the general public to the full and free use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, and medical facilities including hospitals, clinics, and physicians' offices, public facilities, and other public places, and also provides that a violation of an individual's rights under the ADA constitutes a violation of state law (Civil Code § 54).
- 3) Establishes the California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA), an independent state agency composed of 17 members, with responsibility for monitoring disability access compliance in California and the authority to hold hearings and make recommendations to the Legislature for necessary changes to existing state law in order to facilitate implementation of state and federal laws on disability access (Government Code §§ 14985 *et seq.*).
- 4) Requires each state agency to establish a committee of employees who are individuals with a disability, or with an interest in disability issues, to enhance employment and promotional opportunities for the disabled community, as well as weigh in on the implementation of ADA (Government Code § 19795).
- 5) Establishes the Secretary of State's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the Secretary to improve accessibility in the voting process (Elections Code § 2053).
- 6) Establishes the Secretary of State's Language Accessibility Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations on issues related to language accessibility of elections and election materials (Elections Code § 2600).
- 7) Allows the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) to enter into 'community access agreements' that allows eligible entities to use property within the state park system to provide interpretive and visitor services to underserved park uses, including those with disabilities (Public Resources Code § 5009.5).

This bill:

- 1) Requires the director to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee. The committee shall advise the director regarding recommendations for improving the accessibility of state parks for individuals with disabilities.
- 2) Establishes the membership of the committee.
- 3) Establishes the purposes of the committee.
- 4) Authorizes the director to implement the committee's recommendations as the director deems appropriate
- 5) Establishes that committee members may not receive compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses in connection with their service.

### Comments

*First person input.* Although State Parks adheres to the ADA and Title 24, and has been making progress complying with the consent decree, the voices of disabled people are missing from planning new trails and facilities. The committee established by this bill would be able to provide recommendations based on lived experiences of disabled people in the State Parks' system, improving access to parks beyond the minimums required by law.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No    Fiscal Com.: Yes    Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/28/25)

Disability Rights California (sponsor)  
 BORP Adapted Sports and Recreation  
 California Foundation for Independent Living Centers  
 California Outdoor Recreation Partnership  
 California State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
 Designing Accessible Communities  
 Disabled Hikers  
 Easterseals Northern California  
 Nature Collective  
 The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation

An individual

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/28/25)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author, “California’s parks and beaches should be accessible to everyone, but many still face barriers that limit their ability to enjoy them. With 1.6 million acres owned by State Parks and 280 miles of coastline, it’s essential that we remove obstacles and create truly inclusive outdoor spaces. AB 1225 establishes an Accessibility Advisory Committee within the Department of Parks and Recreation to assess current challenges and recommend improvements, ensuring our public lands meet the needs of all visitors. By prioritizing accessibility, this bill helps make California’s natural beauty open to everyone, regardless of ability.”

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 79-0, 6/2/25

**AYES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

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8/30/25 16:08:53

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