Legislation and regulations update

Linda Janssen
BAR Executive Office
July 30, 2026

Bureau of Automotive Repair

Important notice

The information in this presentation is current as of July 16, 2026. Because legislative and regulatory activities are subject to change, details such as bill summaries, dates, or regulation status may not reflect the most recent updates.

For the latest information, please visit:

- **Legislation:** www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov
- **Regulations:** www.bar.ca.gov/regulatory-actions

Important legislative dates

- **July 2–August 3, 2026** – Summer Recess
- **August 31, 2026** – Last day for each house to pass bills
- **September 30, 2026** – Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature
- **January 1, 2027** – Statutes (bills signed into law) take effect

2026 legislative bills

- **Senate Bill (SB) 988** (Grayson): California Motor Vehicle Glass Act
- **SB 1112** (Archuleta): Towing Companies and Storage Facilities
- **SB 1392** (Cortese/Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles
- **SB 1445** (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development): Electronic Documentation

SB 988 (Grayson): California Motor Vehicle Glass Act

- **This bill would:** Establish new requirements for windshield repair and replacement, including:
  - **Disclosures**: Shops must notify consumers if their vehicle has an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) and if calibration is required post-repair.
  - **Written notice and invoice**: Shops must provide written notice of calibration outcomes and itemized invoices.
- **Status:** Placed on suspense file on June 24, 2026.

SB 1112 (Archuleta): Towing Companies and Storage Facilities (1 of 2)

- **This bill would:**
  - Authorize the legal owner, lienholder, or insurer of a vehicle in the possession of a towing company or storage facility to post a bond with the court to retrieve a vehicle before the towing company or storage facility can sell it.
  - After the bond is posted, the court must issue a certificate requiring release of the vehicle, and the party posting the bond must file related legal claims within 10 court days.
  - Prohibit towing and storage providers from engaging in improper towing or storage practices.

SB 1112 (Archuleta): Towing Companies and Storage Facilities (2 of 2)

- Require BAR to develop and distribute, by January 1, 2028, a vehicle owner's rights notice that each towing company, impound yard, storage facility, and auto body shop shall post by July 1, 2028, and establish civil penalties for noncompliance ($1,500 for a first violation and $2,500 for each subsequent violation).

- **Status:** Re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 17, 2026.

SB 1392 (Cortese/Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles (1 of 2)

- **This bill would:** Expand the definition of "collector motor vehicle" to include a vehicle that meets the following criteria:
  1. The vehicle is one of the following:
     a. At least 35 years old and is either insured as a collector motor vehicle with proof of insurance submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) at the time of registration as a collector motor vehicle **or** determined, through a process developed by DMV, to be driven fewer than 1,000 miles per calendar year
     b. Described in Vehicle Code section 5004(a)
     c. A special interest vehicle, as defined in Vehicle Code section 5051
  2. Used primarily in shows, parades, charitable functions, and historical exhibitions for display, maintenance, and preservation
  3. Not used as the owner's primary mode of transportation

SB 1392 (Cortese/Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles (2 of 2)

- **This bill would (continued):**
  - Exempt collector motor vehicles manufactured before the 1981 model year from Smog Check biennially upon renewal of registration, upon initial registration in California, and upon transfer of ownership.
  - Beginning January 1, 2028, extend the exemption by one model year for five years, with the final extension ending with model year 1985 vehicles on January 1, 2032.
  - Collector motor vehicles that are not eligible for an exemption from Smog Check still may be eligible for an abbreviated Smog Check inspection (i.e., no visual check of required emissions control systems/components).
- **Status:** Re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 30, 2026.

SB 1445 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development): Electronic Documentation

- This is an omnibus technical cleanup bill for DCA programs that includes a provision to permit a written estimate in electronic format for automotive repair transactions.
    - Electronic estimates are currently authorized in BAR regulations. This provision clarifies this authority in statute.
- **Status:** Re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 30, 2026.

Pending regulation packages

- Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers
- Airbag Safety
- Towing Authorization Requirement
- Business Information Updates

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (1 of 4)

- **Proposed changes:**
  - Codify existing laws on vehicle storage in BAR regulations. The proposed regulations would:
    - Establish that fees charged for the storage of a motor vehicle must be reasonable.
    - Determine when storage fees may be charged.
    - Require that an ARD store a vehicle at its primary business address as registered with the Bureau. If it is necessary to store the vehicle at a different location:
      - The ARD must notify the customer of the storage location prior to moving the vehicle; and
      - The ARD shall not charge to move the vehicle without customer authorization.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (2 of 4)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**
  - Require that an ARD provide an itemized invoice for storage fees when charged.
  - Require an ARD that provides storage services to post their current daily storage fee rate(s) in an area frequented by customers.
  - Require an ARD to report to the Bureau their maximum daily storage rate when renewing their registration.
    - An ARD may make a change to their reported maximum daily storage rate once per registration cycle.
  - Require an ARD that maintains a motor carrier permit to display the Towing and Storage Fees Access Notice in an area of the business facility that is in plain view of the public and have copies of the notice available to the public.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (3 of 4)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**
  - Require BAR to create a search tool on its website showing average and median daily storage rates for a given locale based on the maximum daily storage rates reported by ARDs.
  - Define a “locale” as one of four geographic radiuses around each reporting ARD that is sufficient to identify average and median storage rates for that locale.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (4 of 4)

- **History:** Public workshops held on April 25, July 18, October 17, 2024, and January 30, 2025
- **Status:** Final package filed with OAL on May 19, 2026; BAR withdrew package on June 26, 2026, to address OAL concerns regarding clarity of several provisions.
- **Next steps:**
  - Additional 15-day public comment period
  - Submit final package to OAL for final approval and adoption
  - Expected effective date of January 1, 2027

Airbag Safety (1 of 3)

- **Proposed changes:**
  - Prohibit an ARD from manufacturing, installing, or selling for sale any airbag which is part of an inflatable restraint system known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to:
    - Have been previously deployed
    - Have an electrical fault
    - Include a component designed to mislead the vehicle owner or operator into believing a functional airbag has been installed
    - Display a mark identical or substantially similar to the genuine mark of a motor vehicle manufacturer, or of a supplier of parts to the manufacturer of a motor vehicle, without authorization from that manufacturer or supplier
  - Require an ARD to restore an airbag that is part of an inflatable restraint system to its original operating condition as designed by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

Airbag Safety (2 of 3)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**
  - Prescribe that an ARD can only purchase an airbag replacement part or component from:
    - The OEM;
    - A supplier or reseller previously authorized by the OEM whose airbag parts or components are not subject to a recall issued by the OEM or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; or
    - An automotive dismantler licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, so long as the airbag has not been previously deployed, the airbag assembly shows no indications of damage, previous deployment, or tampering and the vehicle from which the used parts or components have no airbag-related recalls that have not been performed.
  - Require an ARD to retain receipts for all parts received or purchased.
  - Any replacement shall not contradict any position statement from the manufacturer of the vehicle for which the airbag is being replaced.

Airbag Safety (3 of 3)

- **Status:** 45-day public comment period runs from July 10-August 24, 2026
- **Next steps:**
  - Submit final package to OAL for final approval and adoption
  - Expected effective date of January 1, 2027

Towing Authorization Requirement (1 of 2)

- **Proposed changes:**
  - Require an ARD that performs or contracts with another party to perform a towing service to obtain customer authorization of any towing fees prior to the towing service being performed.
  - Require an ARD that maintains a motor carrier permit pursuant to Vehicle Code section 34620 to obtain any towing fee authorization on a separate document from any repair authorization.
    - This requirement does not apply to a towing service that is needed to transport the vehicle as part of a sublet repair or to transfer the vehicle to a different location for purposes of storage.
  - Require an ARD to list any storage-related and/or towing-related charges as separate line items on the invoice.

Towing Authorization Requirement (2 of 2)

- **Status:** Pending review by DCA Legal
- **Next steps:**
  - Complete internal review by DCA/Agency
  - File package with OAL and begin 45-day public comment period

Business Information Updates (1 of 2)

- **Proposed changes:**
  - Require an applicant for an ARD registration to provide a telephone number for the physical location of the business and a business email address.
  - Ensure that, as a condition of registration renewal, an ARD verifies that all information required on the initial application is current and submitted to BAR.
  - Include, in addition to internet-based advertising, that print and vehicle-based advertising clearly display the ARD business name or DBA name, and their registration number.
  - Clarify that internet-based advertising includes social media, email, and websites.

Business Information Updates (2 of 2)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**
  - Allow the display requirement for internet-based advertising to be satisfied if the advertisement links to another online source containing the required business name and registration number.
- **Status:** Pending review by DCA Legal
- **Next steps:**
  - Complete internal review by DCA/Agency
  - File package with OAL and begin 45-day public comment period

Thank you

For comments and questions, please contact:

Holly Helsing
Holly.Helsing@dca.ca.gov

Sidney Villareal
Sidney.Villareal@dca.ca.gov

www.bar.ca.gov