ASCCA's Lobbyist Jack Molodanof participated in the BAR Advisory Group meeting on Thursday, October 19. Below is his summary of the meeting.

California State Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) News

DCA provided an update on new appointees to the Department. There have been a lot of personnel changes at DCA.

Legislation and Regulations Update

The BAR has been tracking the following bills:
- AB 188 (Vehicle Retire/Replace) – Signed by the Governor
- AB 630 (Vehicle Retire/Replace) – Signed by the Governor
- AB 1005 (Citation Fines) – 2-year bill
- AB 1069 (Taxicab Services) – Signed by the Governor: **Note** that under AB 1069, taxicabs will now be required to obtain a 19-point inspection by a registered BAR shop (19-point inspection based under the PUC rules), these are similar requirements for Uber and Lyft
- AB 1274 (Smog Check Exemption) – Signed by the Governor
- AB 1679 (Auto Body Labor Rate Surveys) – 2-Year bill
- SB 210 (Heavy-Duty Motor Vehicles) – 2-Year bill
- SB 547 (Professions and Vocations-Vehicle Procurement) – Signed by the Governor

Pending BAR regulations:
- Mobile Automotive Repair
- Electronic Documents and Authorization (based on industry input, BAR will be making revisions to the Electronic Documents regulations, and will be sending out a 15-day notice for additional comments)
- BAR-97 Specifications
- Training Provider Requirements
- STAR Program Clean-up
- Brake and Lamp Programs
- Exempted Minor Services and Pre-Service Inspection
- Oil change Service intervals.

[Click here for the presentation](#)

California Vehicle Inspection System Transition (Cal-VISTA)

BAR is in the middle of an RFP process to select a new vendor to maintain and operate the smog check program. BAR is also in the process of transferring ownership of data from current vendor to state office of technology. [Click here for the presentation.](#)

Permanent Diagnostic Trouble Codes

Smog check program. BAR is in the process of reviewing and considering regulations/changes to address a "loophole" with regard to permanent diagnostic codes where vehicles should have failed smog check

inspection but instead passed. These permanent codes are emission related and primarily deal with EVAP monitors not being set. Click here for the presentation.

Safety Recall

The Revecorp provided a presentation on vehicle recalls. The presentation included background, compliance requirements, issues with recalls, and ways to improve notification and remedy rates. BAR also provided a presentation discussing the challenges and opportunities the BAR is facing with evolving technology including unprecedented recalls, connected vehicles, autonomous vehicles, advanced driver assist systems, smart infrastructure, and information security. BAR is looking at ways to improve consumer education so vehicles with both emission and safety recalls are repaired.

Click here for the Revecorp presentation.
Click here for the BAR presentation.

Used Vehicle Inspections

BAR has received numerous complaints from consumers who bought a used vehicle and the check engine light illuminated shorty after. BAR, in conjunction with the DMV, is performing inspections of used vehicles being offered for sale. The purpose of the inspection is to identify vehicles that are not smog compliant and may need repairs. The inspection includes a visual inspection and a scan of the vehicle computer system to identify problems. So far, 20 car dealers were inspected in which 143 vehicles of 454 were flagged for issues. Click here for the presentation.

Enforcement Statistics

BAR consumer complaint trends are as follows:
1. Engine repair and performance 32%
2. General repair and maintenance 19%
3. Auto body 15%
4. Transmission 9%
5. Smog 7%
6. Used car transactions 4%
7. Vehicle warranty 3%
8. Unlicensed activity 2%

Note: Auto Body complaints have increased. Click here for the presentation.

The next BAR Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018. BAR will be revaluating current BAR members and considering 2 year reappointments.