New laws address beverages in barbershops, cameras in voting booths, and more

by Dave Boyce / Almanac

Under a new law, the drinks may be on the house when getting your hair trimmed.

As of Jan. 1, beauty salon and barbershop owners in good standing with the state Board of Barbering and Cosmetology can serve up to 12 ounces of complimentary beer or 6 ounces of wine, according to Assembly Bill AB 1322 by Assemblyman Tom Daly, D-Anaheim, and now-Senator Scott Wilk, R-Santa Clarita.

Free beer and wine were already available in limousines and on hot-air balloon rides, according to a report by the state Legislative Analyst's Office.

The report showed support for the new law from Drybar salons and 18|8 Fine Men's Salons, both nationwide chains. Opposition included the California Alcohol Policy Alliance, the California Council on Alcohol Problems, the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance, the San Rafael Alcohol and Drug Coalition, and "several hundred individuals."

The law is one of 893 passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor in 2016, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. Most were effective on Jan. 1. The Legislature established a state fabric, added several refinements to rape law, tightened the restrictions on using cellphones while driving, and protected rights for a category of selfie photos.