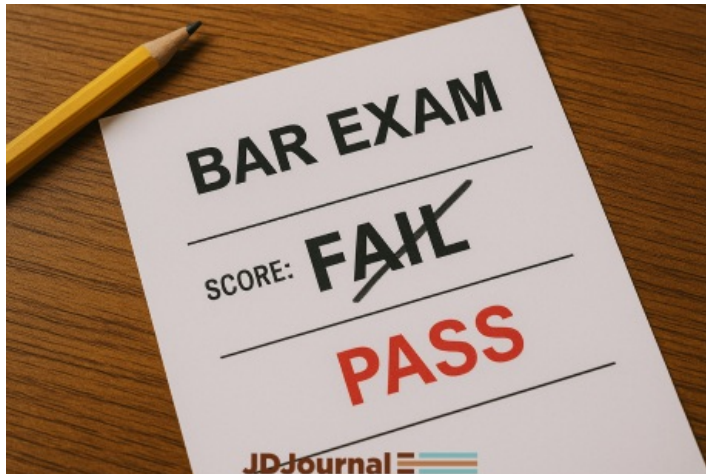


## Grade Flip Scandal: Hundreds of California Bar Takers Now Officially Pass



**California, August 2025** – Additional February bar exam candidates in California have had their originally failing grades updated to passing status, as the State Bar continues to uncover and rectify grading deficiencies stemming from a flawed exam rollout. Recent revisions have pushed the total figure of beneficiaries to **243 examinees**.

### What Went Wrong?

California's February bar exam debuted a **hybrid format**—a combination of in-person and remote testing—without the usual Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) components. The hastily planned change aimed to save money but faltered due to widespread **technical failures**, such as software crashes, proctoring mishaps, and incomplete data transfers.

### Score Revisions and Impact

- **243 examinees** now receive passing status instead of failure, thanks to new scoring methods and corrections.
- Some candidates were initially misscored due to incomplete export of performance test notes—a glitch corrected for several examinees.
- After adjustments, the overall pass rate soared to around **65%**, nearly double California's historical average near 35%.

Earlier corrective actions—including upgraded scoring rules and passing score reduction—had already inflated the pass rate to 56%.

### System Overhaul & Moving Forward

In response to the debacle:

- The **California Supreme Court** now mandates that the **July 2025 exam** revert to the traditional **in-person MBE format**, reversing course on the hybrid model.
- The State Bar introduced an expanded **provisional licensure** program, enabling affected candidates to practice under supervision while awaiting retaking the exam. This initiative still requires California Supreme Court approval.
- Authorities have spent substantial funds—including \$185,000 for an external review—to rectify the fallout and are considering more structural reforms moving forward

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