



# Legislative Bulletin

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*A Publication of the County Executive Office/Legislative Affairs*

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April 25, 2023  
Item No. 32

## **County of Orange Positions on Proposed Legislation**

The Legislative Bulletin provides the Board of Supervisors with analyses of measures pending in Sacramento and Washington that are of interest to the County. Staff provides recommended positions that fall within the range of policies established by the Board. According to the County of Orange Legislative Affairs Program Guidelines adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 25, 2022, staff recommendations for formal County positions on legislation will be agendaized and presented in this document for Board action at regular Board of Supervisors meetings. When the Board takes formal action on a piece of legislation, the CEO will direct the County's legislative advocates to promote the individual bills as approved by the Board. The Legislative Bulletin also provides the Board of Supervisors with informative updates on State and Federal issues.

The 2023-2024 Legislative Platform was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2022.

On April 25, 2023, the Board of Supervisors will consider the following actions:

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

- 1. SUPPORT – AB 684 (Ta): County veterans service officers: additional resources**
- 2. SUPPORT – H.R. 984 (Levin): Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act**
- 3. SUPPORT - S. 24 (Feinstein) / H.R. 516 (Lieu): Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act**
- 4. Receive and File Legislative Bulletin**

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 1. County Position Matrix: CEO-LA**
- 2. Sacramento Legislative Report**
- 3. Washington DC Legislative Report**

**RECOMMENDED ITEMS**

**1. SUPPORT – AB 684 (Ta): County veterans service officers: additional resources**

**CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs**  
**Bill Analysis**



<b>BILL NUMBER:</b>	Assembly Bill (AB) 684	<b>INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:</b>	Introduced: February 13, 2023
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Author(s): Assemblymember Tri Ta (R-Westminster)		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	County veterans service officers: additional resources		
<b>BILL SPONSOR:</b>	Sponsor(s): Assemblymember Tri Ta (R-Westminster)		
<b>STATUS:</b>	Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs		
<b>REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:</b>	Orange County Community Resources		
<b>DEPARTMENT/AGENCY RECOMMENDED POSITION:</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>		
<b>CEO RECOMMENDED POSITION:</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>		

<b><u>Current Law and Background:</u></b>	<p>Existing law authorizes each county board of supervisors to appoint a county veterans service officer, and permits the county to provide the officer with any assistance and facilities that it determines to be necessary. Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to disburse funds, appropriated to the department for the purpose of supporting county veterans service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act, on a pro rata basis, to counties that comply with certain conditions.</p> <p>The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers reports that claims filed through the US Department of Veterans Affairs with the assistance of a county veterans service officer (CVSO) have a higher rate of approval. However, many veterans are unaware of the role CVSOs play and the resources they provide. This is an issue in California, with the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers reporting that the state's ratio of veterans to Veterans Service Representatives</p>
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	(VSR) lags behind other states, limiting in a limited supply of VSRs to service the nation's largest population of veterans.
<b><u>Proposed Law:</u></b>	<p>This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, provide a stipend to counties that host an active United States military base for the purposes of maintain a county veterans service officer, at least part time, at each active United State military base in the county, subject to base approval.</p> <p><u>Related Legislation:</u> 2023-24: AB 1566 (Soria) – Assembly Appropriations Committee</p>
<b><u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u></b>	<p><u>Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs (4/18/23)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed on Consent Calendar</li> </ul>
<b><u>Vote Threshold:</u></b>	Majority
<b><u>State Mandated Local Program:</u></b>	No
<b><u>Fiscal Committee:</u></b>	Yes
<b><u>Support and Opposition:</u></b>	<p><u>Support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None on File</li> </ul> <p><u>Opposition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None on File</li> </ul>
<b><u>Impact on Orange County:</u></b>	
<i>Mandates:</i>	N/A
<i>Operations:</i>	<p>OCVSO will need to add 3 FTE Veterans Claims Representative positions to support two active bases and provide back-up support (Los Alamitos and Seal Beach).</p> <p>Adding the additional positions will prevent the negative impact to current staffing and processing benefits, minimize impact to wait times.</p>
<i>Costs:</i>	3 Veterans Claims Representative-- approximate yearly position cost \$291,000 (\$97,000 per VCR).
<i>Revenues:</i>	N/A
<b><u>Impact on Department Area of Responsibility:</u></b>	The bill's proposed staffing support on base will affect current claims/service processing and appointment times if staffing level remains the same.
<b><u>Policy Platform References:</u></b>	<u>Veterans Claims Process:</u> "Support increased access to veterans' affairs database, as well as training and funding for VSO claims officers to retrieve claim award information."

	<p><u>Veterans:</u> "Support programs and funding that address the specific needs of veterans."</p> <p><u>Caseload Growth and Funding for Services:</u> "Secure equitable and consistent funding to sufficiently support caseload growth, regulatory changes, and other related administrative costs."</p>
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2. SUPPORT – H.R. 984 (Levin): Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act

**CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs**  
**Bill Analysis**



<b>BILL NUMBER:</b>	H.R. 984	<b>INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:</b>	<u>Introduced:</u> February 10, 2023
<b>SPONSOR(S):</b>	<u>Sponsors:</u> Representative Mike Levin (D-CA-49) <u>Co-Sponsors:</u> Representatives Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-5), Chris Pappas (D-NH-1), Brad Finstad (R-MN-1), Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24), Derrick Van Orden (R-WI-3), Seth Moulton (D-MA-6), and Mike Flood (R-NE-1)		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act		
<b>STATUS:</b>	House Veterans' Affairs Committee		
<b>REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:</b>	<b>OC Community Resources / OC Community Services (OCCR/OCCS)</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT/AGENCY RECOMMENDED POSITION:</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>		
<b>CEO RECOMMENDED POSITION:</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>		

<b><u>Current Law and Background:</u></b>	<p>County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) are local county employees who are nationally accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prepare, present, and prosecute VA claims; inform veterans about their eligibility for VA programs and services; help enroll veterans into the Veterans Health Administration (VHA); and provide assistance on a range of benefits, including service-connected disability compensation, VA home loans, education benefits, and job placement assistance.</p> <p>According to the sponsor's office, approximately 1,700 accredited representatives throughout 36 states and two Native American Tribes are responsible for successfully processing nearly \$42 billion in claims annually for direct compensation and pension benefits for veterans. This amount rises to more than \$85 billion if healthcare and ancillary benefits are included.</p>
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<p><b><u>Proposed Law:</u></b></p>	<p>The Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act would authorize \$50 million annually for fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to improve outreach and assistance to veterans and the spouses, children, and parents of veterans, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about any veterans and veterans-related benefits and programs (including veterans programs of a State or Indian Tribe) for which they may be eligible; and facilitate opportunities for such individuals to receive competent, qualified services in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of veterans benefits claims.</p> <p>Specifically, grants awarded would be used to: (1) expand existing programs, activities, and services; (2) hire new, additional county or tribal veterans service officers; and (3) for travel and transportation needed to facilitate the enhancement of services and the recruitment and retention of veterans services officers. Additionally, grant funds may be used to provide education and training, including on-the-job training, for State, county, local, and tribal government employees who provide veterans outreach services to obtain accreditation.</p> <p><u>Related Legislation:</u></p> <p>2023: S. 106 (Baldwin, D-WI) – Pending in Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee</p> <p><u>Prior Legislation:</u></p> <p>2021-22: H.R. 4601 (Levin) – Not heard in the Senate</p>
<p><b><u>Support and Opposition:</u></b></p>	<p><u>Support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Association of Counties (NACo)</li> <li>• National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO)</li> <li>• National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA)</li> <li>• Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)</li> <li>• San Diego Military Advisory Council</li> <li>• America’s Warrior Partnership</li> <li>• Green Beret Foundation</li> <li>• AMAC – Association of Mature American Citizens</li> <li>• Wounded Warrior Project</li> <li>• Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)</li> </ul> <p><u>Opposition:</u> None known</p>
<p><b><u>Impact on Orange County:</u></b></p>	<p>This legislation would require states to submit an application containing a detailed plan for the use of the grant funds, as</p>

	well as demonstrate that these federal funds would not be used to supplant current state or local funding.
<i>Mandates:</i>	This legislation would not create new, or alter existing, program mandates.
<i>Operations:</i>	N/A
<i>Costs:</i>	N/A
<i>Revenues:</i>	No estimate of potential revenues from the competitive grant program created by this legislation. To receive funds, states would be required submit an application that includes a detailed plan for the use of these funds, how the funds will meet underserved veterans' needs, and other specified information.
<b><u>Impact on Department Area of Responsibility:</u></b>	This legislation would promote state and federal efforts to improve outreach and benefit accessibility to our veterans and their families. By increasing the number of CVSOs, states will be better able to leverage their local and federal resources to serve our veterans.
<b><u>Policy Platform References:</u></b>	<p><u>Veterans</u>: "Support programs and funding that address the specific needs of veterans." (p. 30)</p> <p><u>Veterans Services</u>: "Support efforts to increase operating funding for county veterans service offices (VSOs) to assist veterans and their families with accessing the maximum VA benefits they are entitled to, including but not limited to training for VSO claim officers; increasing access to the veterans' affairs database; and reducing the federal veterans' claims backlog by creating more efficient federal, state, and local government coordination for veterans' claims development." (p. 30)</p>

**3. SUPPORT - S. 24 (Feinstein) / H.R. 516 (Lieu): Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act**

**CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs**  
**Bill Analysis**



<b>BILL NUMBER:</b>	S. 24 / H.R. 516	<b>INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:</b>	<u>Introduced:</u> January 23, 2023
<b>SPONSOR(S): S. 106</b>	<u>Sponsors:</u> Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) <u>Co-Sponsors:</u> Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)		
<b>SPONSOR(S): H.R. 984</b>	<u>Sponsors:</u> Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA-36) <u>Co-Sponsors:</u> Representatives Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37), Robert Garcia (D-CA-42), Eric Swalwell (D-CA-14), Jared Moskowitz (D-FL-23)		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act		
<b>STATUS:</b>	Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (S. 24) / House Committee on Financial Services (H.R. 516)		
<b>REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:</b>	<b>CEO Office of Care Coordination</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT/AGENCY RECOMMENDED POSITION:</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>		
<b>CEO RECOMMENDED POSITION:</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>		

<b><u>Current Law and Background:</u></b>	California has the largest homeless population in the United States: of the nearly 600,000 estimated individuals experiencing homelessness in the nation, 170,000 are in California. Homelessness was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report showing a 3% increase in the homeless population between 2020 and 2022. Between that same period, chronic homelessness increased by 16%. This bill aims to address the difficulties associated in housing individuals by improving local governments' ability to implement wraparound services including mental health
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	care, substance abuse treatment, job training and educational opportunities.
<b><u>Proposed Law:</u></b>	<p>The Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act would authorize \$1 billion annually for five years to fund supportive housing models that provide comprehensive services and intensive case management. These grants would be available to local governments including cities, counties and regional collaboratives. The grants may be used for any combination of operations and capital building costs as long as housing and services requirements are fulfilled. Services must address issues including mental health; substance use disorders; disabling or other chronic health conditions; educational and job training/employment outcomes; and life skills classes. Intensive case management must be provided with a ratio of no greater than one case manager for every 20 people served. When serving families, households with children, services available must also include children’s behavioral and mental health services, early childhood education, regular and age-appropriate children’s programming and activities, child health and nutrition screening and education and parenting classes and support programs. Services must also have in place protocol for staff training and best practices to identify and prevent child trafficking, abuse and neglect. Grantees are required to track outcomes and report on housing stability and improvements in health and wellbeing, including the education of children. Finally, a 25% match for services and housing from non-federal funds is required.</p> <p><u>Prior Legislation:</u></p> <p>This bill is a reintroduction of S. 923 (Feinstein, D-CA), the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act. The Board of Supervisors supported this bill in 2019.</p>
<b><u>Support and Opposition:</u></b>	<p><u>Support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None on File</li> </ul> <p><u>Opposition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None on File</li> </ul>
<b><u>Impact on Orange County:</u></b>	This will provide the County of Orange a new and additional funding source that would support the ongoing development of permanent supportive housing and the operational costs of providing wraparound supportive services people experiencing chronic homelessness, including health care, behavioral health, case management, and more to meet the needs of.
<i>Mandates:</i>	N/A
<i>Operations:</i>	The legislation would enhance the County of Orange’s opportunities to develop additional permanent supportive housing and affordable housing for people

	experiencing homelessness as it would introduce a new funding source not previously available. The 2022 Housing Funding Strategy Update identified an estimated funding gap of \$458 million in capital and \$495 million in operating subsidies and this legislation provides funding and opportunity to fill the identified gaps.
<i>Costs:</i>	The 2022 Housing Funding Strategy Update identified an estimated funding gap of \$458 million in capital and \$495 million in operating subsidies and this legislation provides funding and opportunity to fill the identified gaps.
<i>Revenues:</i>	N/A
<b><u>Impact on Department Area of Responsibility:</u></b>	This legislation will further support the County of Orange's goal of creating 2,396 permanent supportive housing units as identified in the 2022 Housing Funding Strategy Update.
<b><u>Policy Platform References:</u></b>	<u>Homelessness Prevention:</u> "Support efforts to develop permanent supportive housing and affordable housing and promote the flexible use of funding to meet the needs of individuals and families.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS


### 1. County Position Matrix: CEO-LA

The table below lists the active bills the Board of Supervisors has taken positions on in the 2023-24 legislative session.

State Legislation

*As of Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Bill No.	Author	Subject	Position	Date of Board Action	Status
<b><u>SB 44</u></b>	<u>Umberg</u>	Controlled substances	<b>Support</b>	1.24.23	Senate Public Safety Committee
<b><u>SB 91</u></b>	<u>Umberg</u>	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: supportive and transitional housing: motel conversion	<b>Support</b>	3.14.23	Senate Appropriations Committee
<b><u>AB 307</u></b>	<u>Chen</u>	Structural fumigation enforcement program	<b>Support</b>	3.14.23	Senate Rules Committee
<b><u>AB 400</u></b>	<u>Rubio</u>	Local agency design-build projects: authorization	<b>Support</b>	3.14.23	Assembly Local Government Committee
<b><u>AB 1270</u></b>	<u>Dixon</u>	Redevelopment: successor agency: City of Lake Forest	<b>Sponsor</b>	3.14.23	Assembly Local Government Committee
<b><u>SB 19</u></b>	<u>Seyarto</u>	Anti-Fentanyl Abuse Task Force	<b>Support</b>	3.28.23	Senate Appropriations Committee
<b><u>SB 62</u></b>	<u>Nguyen</u>	Controlled substances: fentanyl	<b>Support</b>	3.28.23	Senate Public Safety Committee
<b><u>AB 701</u></b>	<u>Villapudua</u>	Controlled substances: fentanyl	<b>Support</b>	3.28.23	Assembly Public Safety Committee
<b><u>AB 1058</u></b>	<u>Patterson</u>	Controlled substances: fentanyl	<b>Support</b>	3.28.23	Assembly Public Safety Committee
<b><u>SB 706</u></b>	<u>Caballero</u>	Public contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies	<b>Support</b>	4.11.23	Senate Floor

 Highlighted sections symbolize a status change.

### 2. Sacramento Legislative Report

*Prepared by Precision Advocacy Group LLC*

Orange County's sponsored legislation, AB 1270 (Dixon) Redevelopment: successor agency: City of Lake Forest, will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 26. The measure would allow the Lake Forest successor agency to receive redevelopment property tax revenues directly from the County Auditor-Controller; like other successor agencies. Advocacy on the measure has gone smoothly and we do not anticipate problems in moving the measure from the Local Government Committee to the Appropriations Committee.

Budget committees, although still very busy, are winding down a bit in preparation for the May Revision. It is unclear currently whether the two houses will adopt separate budgets and hold

conference committee to work out the differences or whether they will produce a joint budget and skip the conference committee process altogether as they did last year. As previously mentioned, this year's May Revision will be particularly tenuous with a budget deficit and a lack of clarity regarding revenues due to tax filing deferrals to October.

## Broadband Legislation

### **AB 41 (Holden) Telecommunications: The Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023.**

Would revise and recast the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006 to, among other things:

1. Rename the act as the Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023;
2. Provide that the act does not authorize the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to regulate the rates of video services;
3. Authorize the CPUC to exercise the authority, jurisdiction, and powers authorized to be exercised by a franchise authority pursuant to certain federal law;
4. Require the commission to hold a public hearing related to each application to renew a state franchise and to issue the state franchise or a reject the application for renewal not more than 90 days after the public hearing;
5. Require a franchise applicant to submit a description of the households that are known to be unserved in the video service area footprint that the applicant proposes to serve;
6. Extend deadlines related to the CPUC's review of applications for state franchises;
7. Require the CPUC to require video service providers to make video service available to all residences in its service area within 5 years of the issuance of a state-issued franchise renewal;
8. Revise the revenues excluded from the definition of "gross revenue" for purposes of calculating the franchise fee for a local jurisdiction;
9. Establish a policy of the state that subscribers and potential subscribers of a state video franchise holder should benefit from equal access to video service within the franchise service area;
10. Expand the prohibition on certain cable operators or video service providers from discriminating against, or denying access to service to, any group of potential residential subscribers to include discrimination or denial of equal access because of any rationale, rather than only because of the income of the residents in the local area in which the group resides;
11. Require the CPUC to enforce customer service requirements for a holder of a state franchise; and
12. Increase the maximum amount of a fine that could be assessed for a violation of the equal access requirement; Require the commission to enforce customer service requirements for a holder of a state franchise;
13. Increase the maximum amount of a penalty that a local entity may assess against a holder of a state franchise that materially breaches specified video service customer service and consumer protection standards.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee on 4/19

CSAC Position: Support

**AB 286 (Wood) Broadband infrastructure: mapping.** Specifies additional information and user-features that must be included on the interactive broadband map that is published and maintained by the CPUC.

Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

CSAC Position: Support

**AB 414 (Reyes) Communications: Digital Equity Bill of Rights.** Establishes the Digital Equity Bill of Rights, which provides that it is the policy of the state to ensure digital equity for all residents of the state, that residents have the right to broadband in various forms and functions, and that broadband internet subscribers benefit from equal access to service.

Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

CSAC Position: Pending

**AB 415 (Rodriguez) Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act.** Would enact the Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act and would require, on or before January 1, 2025, the Office of Emergency Services to establish a grant program to provide fairgrounds with grant funding for the purpose of building and upgrading communication and internet infrastructure on fairgrounds. The bill would provide that the program is operative only upon an appropriation by the legislature for its purposes.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee on 4/19

CSAC Position: Support

**AB 662 (Boerner Horvath) Federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funds: administration.** Would require the CPUC to strictly follow federal guidelines established by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for use of federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funds.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on 4/19

CSAC Position: Watch

**AB 768 (Boerner Horvath) Communications: The Office of Broadband and Digital Equity.**

Would establish the Office of Broadband and Digital Equity to serve as a centralized state office for broadband and digital activities within the state.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee on 4/19

CSAC Position: Watch

**AB 965 (Carrillo, Juan) Local government: broadband permit applications.** Would require a city, county, city and county, charter city, special district, or publicly owned utility, to undertake batch broadband permit processing, upon receiving 2 or more substantially similar broadband permit applications submitted at the same time, within a presumptively reasonable time, as defined. If a city, county, city and county, charter city, special district, or publicly owned utility does not approve those substantially similar broadband permit applications and issue permits, or reject the applications and notify the applicants, within the presumptively reasonable time, the bill would require that all of those permits be deemed approved.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee on 4/19

CSAC Position: Pending

**AB 1065 (Patterson, Jim) Communications: California Advanced Services Fund.** Would expressly authorize an otherwise eligible wireless broadband service provider to apply for and receive funding from two accounts of the California Advanced Services Fund program.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on 4/19

CSAC Position: Watch

**AB 1231 (Santiago) Telecommunications: combining lifeline, federal lifeline, and federal Affordable Connectivity Program subsidies.** Would, no later than February 1, 2024, require the CPUC to allow every wireline and wireless lifeline telephone service subscriber to combine California lifeline subsidies with federal low-income communications subsidies, including, but not limited to, federal lifeline and federal Affordable Connectivity Program subsidies, on the same service line to provide a more robust voice and broadband plan.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee on 4/19

CSAC Position: Support

**AB 1461 (Patterson, Jim) California Advanced Services Fund: Federal Funding Account.**

Strikes existing law requiring the CPUC to initially allocate specified funding levels to rural and urban counties through June 30, 2023 for purposes of administering the California Advanced Services Fund Federal Funding Account.

Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

CSAC Position: Pending

**AB 1714 (Wood) Public utilities: broadband service providers.** The Public Utilities Act imposes requirements, including a requirement that rates charged by a public utility are to be just and reasonable, over public utilities. Under existing law, a violation of the act by a public utility is a crime. This bill would define “public utility” to include a corporation providing broadband service to the public or a portion of the public.

Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee

CSAC Position: Pending

**SB 387 (Dodd) State property: sale or lease: broadband development.** Authorizes the Department of General Services to enter a lease, at an amount less than fair market value, in support of broadband development.

Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

CSAC Position: None

**SB 396 (Wahab) Local government: excavations: notice.** Current law requires local agencies with jurisdiction to approve excavations to allow microtrenching for the installation of underground fiber if the installation in the microtrench is limited to fiber.

This bill would require, prior to commencing any local agency-led excavation projects, a city, county, or city and county notify interested parties of the project on its internet website to encourage collaborative installations of important utilities and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, fiber optic cable, undergrounding utilities, or other important services.

Status: Awaiting hearing in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee

CSAC Position: Pending

**SB 754 (Alvarado-Gil) Communications: California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund program.** Clarifies rate-making requirements for small independent telephone corporations to prohibit the CPUC from incorporating broadband revenues in calculations for telephone corporation rates.

Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

CSAC Position: Pending

**SB 825 (Limón) Local government: public broadband services.** Makes certain regional transportation planning entities eligible for broadband infrastructure planning grant funding from the CPUC.

Status: Awaiting vote on the Senate Floor

CSAC Position: Pending

**SB 860 (Bradford) Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy: outreach.** Requires the California Department of Technology Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy to conduct outreach to increase awareness about broadband subsidy programs and improve broadband adoption.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/24

CSAC Position: Pending

**Upcoming Hearings**

Agendas are typically posted on the committee websites in the [Assembly](#) and [Senate](#) a few days prior to the hearings. To view hearings after they take place, you may access them in the [Assembly](#) or [Senate](#) media archives where they are generally available within a few hours of committee adjournment.

***Monday, April 24, 2023, 2:30 p.m.***

***Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety***

All Departments

***Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 9 a.m.***

***Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance***

Prek-12 Governor's Budget Proposals: Department of Social Services, Department of Education, Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Office of Public School Construction, School Finance Authority, Treasurer's Office, Special Education proposals, Nutrition Oversight, Data Proposals and Oversight, Facility Funding, Home to School Transportation Oversight

***Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 1:30 p.m.***

***Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration***

April Letters - Open Issues

***Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 9:30 a.m.***

***Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation***

Open Issues / Spring Finance Letters / All Depts.

***Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 1:30 p.m.***

***Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services***

Spring Finance Letters and Open Issues

All Human Services Departments

Department of Social Services: April 15, 2023 Report on CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) Optimization and How This Relates to the Work Participation Rate (WPR) County Penalty Pass-On

***Thursday, April 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session***

***Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education***

University of California and California State Library

***Thursday, April 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session***

***Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy***

All Departments - Open Issues

***Thursday, April 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session***

***Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services***

Department of Social Services: Automation Systems, CalWORKs, CalFresh, Equity and Immigration Programs

***Thursday, April 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session***

***Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government***

Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, Office of Emergency Services, Department of California Highway Patrol, Department of Technology, Military Department, All Departments - Open Issues



**Thursday, April 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session**  
**Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation**  
All Departments - Open Issues

## Governor's Press Releases

Below is a list of the governor's press releases beginning April 12.

**April 18:** [Ahead of Likely U.S. Supreme Court Decision, Governor Newsom Announces New Efforts to Protect Medication Abortion Access in California](#)

**April 18:** [California Invested \\$1.3 Billion in Nearly 19,500 Climate Projects in 2022](#)

**April 18:** [TODAY: In Sacramento, Governor Newsom and Legislative and Reproductive Rights Leaders Highlight Efforts to Protect Access to Reproductive Freedom](#)

**April 13:** [Governor Newsom on Biden Administration Announcement Expanding Health Care Access to DACA Recipients](#)

**April 12:** [Governor Newsom Statement on Biden Administration's New Proposed Emissions Standards](#)

### 3. Washington DC Legislative Report

*Prepared by Van Scoyoc Associates*

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY

### House Republicans Unveil Debt Limit Bill

For most of 2023, lawmakers and senior executive branch officials have been aware of the specter of Debt Limit negotiations which have enormous ramifications on the government and economy. The top negotiations on the Debt Limit between President Biden and Speaker of the House McCarthy are at a standstill currently. McCarthy says he wants to negotiate on policy matters that reduce spending that would accompany a Debt Limit increase, but claims Biden refuses. Biden, who in March released his full budget plan to reduce the deficit by \$3 trillion, says he will not negotiate until Republicans publicly release their plan to reduce the annual deficit.

This week, Speaker McCarthy [announced the Republican deficit reduction plan](#) to be on the House floor next week. Generally, the legislation will includes:

- Increase the debt limit by \$1.5 trillion.
- Freeze discretionary spending at FY22 levels. This is roughly \$130 billion below projected FY24 levels. Once discretionary spending is frozen, Congress would allow roughly a 1% annual growth rate for the next nine fiscal years.
- Rescind any unobligated COVID-19 emergency dollars that federal agencies have not spent.
- Enact the House's recently-considered Lower Energy Costs Act which includes 18 energy/natural resources related bills intended to address the federal permitting process for energy and natural resources projects.
- Ban the Biden Administration's planned student loan forgiveness plan.
- Impose work requirements for most mandatory programs for low-income individuals: Medicaid, TANF, SNAP, and others.



The legislation will come up next week. But it is not certain the bill will pass. Many Freedom Caucus members have argued they want “more meat on the bone”, meaning they want additional cuts and policies included. Likewise, some moderate Republicans have already said they oppose the bill. In addition, we expect significant external groups to advocate against the bill. Passing the bill out of the House will be Speaker McCarthy’s toughest challenge to date.

Even if it passes the House, it will not pass the Senate. The legislation is primarily intended to restart negotiations between Biden and McCarthy, and (according to many Republicans) next week’s bill is intended to give McCarthy more policy tools at his disposal in the negotiations. And it is very uncertain how those negotiations will play out.

### **Senate Firefighter Program Bill Threatens to Cut ARPA Local Funds**

The Senate is considering legislation reauthorizing FEMA’s various firefighter assistance programs. The normal consideration of the bill got a little worrisome for local governments when Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) announced he would try to rescind unobligated funds sitting at the Treasury Department for the American Rescue Plan Act’s various form of COVID assistance to state and local governments. The amendment was defeated 47-49 (13 votes short of passage).

### **Senator Feinstein Ploy Blocked by Senate Republicans**

Senator Dianne Feinstein has been unable to be present for Senate work since mid-February as she battles a case of the shingles. She recently stated that her recovery is taking longer than expected and she did not indicate when she expects to return to the Senate. Many Senate Democrats are frustrated with her absence, which is creating a major logjam at the Senate Judiciary Committee for all judicial nominees. To address this, Feinstein requested that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) introduce a resolution to allow Feinstein to temporarily leave the committee while Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) would take her place. However, Republican senators are not eager to let more Democratic-appointed judges onto the bench, and they blocked the resolution which requires at least 60 votes. As a result, Democratic senators are unsure how to proceed. Some have called for her resignation so a replacement can participate fully in Senate activities. But more realistically, they will have to wait for Feinstein to return.

## **EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY**

### **CMS Grants States Ability to Cover Inmates Pre-Release**

For many years, state and local governments have urged Congress to address the “Medicaid Inmate Exclusion”. The statutory provision states that inmates in custody are not entitled to Medicaid services. This means any mental health or substance use disorder services those inmates receive while in custody are paid for by that jurisdiction, not federal Medicaid dollars.

The [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced](#) they would allow states to re-enroll inmates 90 days prior to the inmate’s release. This would allow patients to receive SUD and mental health treatment prior to their release, and for state and local police to get reimbursed for such costs. It also more efficiently prepares inmates for continued treatment after their release. The entire process would require the state Medicaid office to initiate the plan through an 1115 waiver.

Details can be found in this [letter to state Medicaid directors.](#)

### **DOT FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All Program**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the opening of the [FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) grant program](#). Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the SS4A discretionary grant program will provide \$5 billion in grant funding over five years. The program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent deaths and serious injuries on the nation's roadways. The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. EDT Monday, July 10, 2023. Award announcements are expected to be made by late 2023.

DOT will be hosting a series of webinars for interested applicants, and webinar attendees [must register in advance](#) to attend one of the following sessions:

#### Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program - Action Plans

This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS4A program and the grant application process, with a particular focus on applying for grants to develop an Action Plan.

Wednesday, April 26, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EDT

#### Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program - Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities

This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS4A program and the grant application process, with a particular focus on applying for funding for supplemental planning and demonstration activities.

Thursday, April 27, 1:30-3:00 p.m. EDT

#### Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program - Implementation Grants

This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS4A program and the grant application process, with a particular focus on applying for Implementation Grants.

Tuesday, May 2, 1:30-3:00 p.m. EDT

### **EPA Issues Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making for PFAS Substances**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM), asking the public for input regarding potential future hazardous substance designations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as "Superfund."

This request for input and information follows EPA's September 2022 proposed rule to designate two PFAS — perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) — as hazardous substances under CERCLA. EPA is currently reviewing comments received on this proposed rule.

Through this ANPRM, EPA is seeking input on whether to propose to designate additional PFAS, including HFPO-DA, sometimes called GenX, and compounds that degrade in the environment by processes such as biodegradation, photolysis, and hydrolysis, to form certain PFAS. EPA is also seeking information on whether some PFAS compounds can or should be designated as a group or category.

A Federal Register Notice has been published in the Federal Register at docket EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0922 and can be viewed [here](#). The ANPRM will be open for a 60-day comment period through June 12, 2023.

### **HUD FY 2023 Housing Choice Voucher Program**

HUD announced the release of almost \$30 billion for the [FY 2023 Housing Choice Voucher Program](#).

Funded at a record level by the FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, HUD is providing \$27 billion to Public Housing Agencies (PHA) to renew assistance for the 2.3 million low-income households currently using housing vouchers. The notice also makes \$337 million available to continue assistance for tenants in public or other assisted housing that is being demolished or otherwise removed from service, and \$2.8 billion for PHA administrative expenses.

A list of PHAs receiving funding can be found [here](#). HUD also provides a [series of tools](#) to help PHAs increase participation in and utilization of their local Housing Choice Voucher programs.

### **USDA Opens FY 2023 Urban Forestry Program**

The Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Forest Service announced the availability of \$1 billion for its FY 2023 Urban Forestry Program.

Established by the Inflation Reduction Act, the program will provide funding to projects that:

- increase equitable access to urban tree canopy and associated human health, environmental and economic benefits in disadvantaged communities;
- broaden community engagement in local urban forest planning; and
- improve community and urban forest resilience to climate change, pests and storm events through best management and maintenance practices.

Project awards will be between \$100,000 and \$50,000,000 and for a period of five years. The program also requires all federal funds be matched at least equally (dollar for dollar) with non-federal match. Match-waivers are available for proposals that deliver 100% of the funding/program benefits to disadvantaged communities.

More information on the program and how to apply can be found [here](#).

### **Treasury Reallocates ARPA Funds for Eviction Prevention**

The Department of the Treasury announced that 82 state and local grantees have been awarded \$521.1 million in reallocated funds under the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) (ERA) to assist renters facing financial hardship.

The Department prioritized the reallocation of funds within a given state to grantees with demonstrated need so that, where possible, the same pool of renters in need could benefit from funds even if a local or state program struggled administratively to implement the program rapidly.

The Treasury Department also actively facilitated voluntary reallocations agreed upon by multiple jurisdictions within the same state. For example, if a state program was successful in quickly deploying funds to the residents of a specific municipality, that city could decide to work with the Treasury Department to voluntarily send its funds to the state ERA program—or vice versa. Since the

start of ERA, the majority of reallocated funds has been sent through this voluntary mechanism, established and facilitated by the Treasury Department.

A full list of today's grantees receiving reallocated funds can be found [here](#).

### **Legislation Introduced by Orange County Delegation**

Senator Alex Padilla:

- *Introduced the [Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency \(SCERT\) Act](#) which would “create a much-needed process for investigating misconduct at the Supreme Court, strengthen recusal standards for judges and disclosure rules for special interests trying to influence the courts, improve disclosure of travel and hospitality for judges, and mandate the creation of a binding code of ethics.”*

Rep. Linda Sanchez:

- *Introduced the [Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults \(SILO\) Act](#), which is aimed at “mitigating the impact of social isolation and loneliness in seniors. With nearly one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older suffering from social isolation, this bill aims to address one of the most dangerous, yet preventable, risk factors that can lead to poor health outcomes among older Americans.”*

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information on any of the items in this bulletin, please contact Peter DeMarco at 714-834-5777.