



Legislative Bulletin

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A Publication of the County Executive Office/Legislative Affairs

May 7, 2024
Item No. 28

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 agendized 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 May 7, 2024, the Board of Supervisors will consider the following actions:

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- 1. SUPPORT – AB 2485 (Carillo, Juan): Regional housing need: determination.**
- 2. SUPPORT – AB 2736 (Carillo, Juan): Veterans: benefits.**
- 3. Receive and File Legislative Bulletin**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

1. SUPPORT – AB 2485 (Carrillo, Juan): Regional housing need: determination.

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



BILL NUMBER:	Assembly Bill (AB) 2485	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	<u>Amended:</u> March 19, 2024
AUTHOR:	Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (AD-39)		
SUBJECT:	Regional housing need: determination.		
BILL SPONSOR:	Southern California Association of Governments		
STATUS:	Assembly Committee on Appropriations		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	OCPW		
DEPARTMENT/AGENCY RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
CEO RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law and Background:</u>	<p>The Planning and Zoning Law requires each county and city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, which includes, among other mandatory elements, a housing element. That law requires, for the 4th and subsequent revisions of the housing element, the Department of Housing and Community Development (department) to determine the existing and projected need for housing for each region, as specified. That law requires the department, in consultation with the council of governments, to determine the existing and projected need of housing for each region in a specified manner. That law requires the department's determination to be based upon population projections produced by the Department of Finance, as specified. That law also requires the department to meet and consult with the council of governments regarding the assumptions and methodologies to be used to determine each region's housing need and requires the council of governments to provide data assumptions from the council of governments' projections, as specified. That law authorizes the department to accept or reject the information provided by the council of governments and, after consultation with each council of governments, to make determinations on the council of governments' data assumptions and the methodology the department will use to determine each region's housing need.</p>		

	That law requires the department to provide its determinations to each council of governments, as specified.
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	This bill would require the department to publish on its internet website the data sources, analyses, and methodology, as specified, prior to finalization of the regional determination. The bill would also require the department, for the 7th and subsequent revisions of the housing element, to assemble and convene an advisory panel that includes, among others, an expert on the data assumptions by each council of governments to advise the department on the assumptions and methodology it will use to determine each region housing need. The bill would also require the department to consult with the advisory panel before making determinations on the council of governments' data assumptions and methodology it will use to determine each region's housing need for the 7th and subsequent revisions of the housing element. The bill would also additionally require the department to publish its determination on its internet website.
<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	Assembly Local Government (Y:8 N:0 A:1) Assembly Housing and Community Development (Y:8 N:0 A:1)
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	<p><u>Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of California Cities - Orange County (ACC-OC) • California Association of Councils of Governments • California State Association of Counties • City of Chino Hills • City of Glendora • City of La Verne • City of Lomita • City of Monrovia • City of Palm Desert • City of Thousand Oaks • League of California Cities • Livable California • San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments <p><u>Opposition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None on file
<u>Impact on Orange County:</u>	This bill would not expand the County role in determining the RHNA but would provide clarification and transparency in the state process of determining the RHNA.

<i>Mandates:</i>	N/A. This program mandates the State Department of Housing and Community Development to develop additional steps in determining RHNA allocations and a requirement to publish the information online. The changes do not create any additional demands on the County.
<i>Operations:</i>	N/A
<i>Costs:</i>	N/A
<i>Revenues:</i>	N/A
<u>Impact on Department Area of Responsibility:</u>	The additional steps in determining RHNA allocations includes a panel review which will create a potential avenue for increased advocacy of the County's position on the allocation.
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<u>INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</u> <u>Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA):</u> Support legislation that provides clarity, addresses inconsistencies, or provides flexibility in the RHNA process for a successful completion of the County's Housing Element. Page 34

2. SUPPORT – AB 2736 (Carrillo, Juan): Veterans: benefits.

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



BILL NUMBER:	Assembly Bill (AB) 2736	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	<u>Introduced:</u> February 15, 2024
AUTHOR:	Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (AD-39)		
SUBJECT:	Veterans: benefits.		
BILL SPONSOR:	N/A		
STATUS:	Assembly Committee on Appropriations		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	OCCR		
DEPARTMENT/AGENCY RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
CEO RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law and Background:</u>	Existing law establishes various educational benefits for dependents of veterans who were killed during military service or are totally disabled, as specified. Existing law defines “dependent of a veteran” to include the spouse of a totally disabled veteran. Existing law prohibits a dependent of a veteran from receiving these educational benefits during the time the dependent is entitled to receive specified federal educational benefits or duplicate assistance from any other government source.		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	This bill would repeal the prohibition described above.		
<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs (Y:10 N:0 A:0)		
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority		
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No		
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes		
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	<p><u>Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amvets, Department of California • California Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California State Association of Counties Military Officers Association of America, California Council of Chapters <p><u>Opposition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None on file
<u>Impact on Orange County:</u>	
<i>Mandates:</i>	Orange County Veterans Service Office (OCVSO) is mandated to provide application assistance and approval for the State administered College Fee Waiver program. OCVSO additionally aids veterans and their dependents/survivors on applications to all federal educational benefits addressed in AB 2736. Reference: <i>Military & Veterans Code Sections 970 and 971.</i>
<i>Operations:</i>	N/A
<i>Costs:</i>	N/A
<i>Revenues:</i>	Potential increase in claims resulting in state subvention revenues to the County.
<u>Impact on Department Area of Responsibility:</u>	OCVSO is currently mandated and responsible to provide application assistance for both state and federal educational benefits. AB 2736 does not pose a new area of responsibility; it provides for a potential benefit to increase revenues via subvention received for these types of claims assistance.
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<p><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>Veterans:</u> Support programs and funding that address the specific needs of veterans. Page 30.</p> <p><u>Veteran 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 access to veterans' affairs database; and reducing the federal veterans' claims backlog by creating more efficient federal, state and local government coordination for veterans' claims development. Page 30.</p>

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. County Position Matrix: CEO-LA

The tables below list the bills the Board of Supervisors has taken positions on in the 2023-24 legislative session.

State Legislation

As of Thursday, May 2, 2024

Bill No.	Author	Subject	Position	Date of Board Action	Status
<u>AB 1957</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	Public contracts: best value construction contracting for counties.	Sponsor	3.26.24	Assembly Floor
<u>AB 2393</u>	<u>Dixon</u>	Tidelands and submerged lands: County of Orange and Newport Bay: franchises or leases.	Sponsor	3.26.24	Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
<u>SB 1334</u>	<u>Newman</u>	Substance use disorder treatment: licensing.	Sponsor	3.26.24	Senate Committee on Health
<u>AB 1948</u>	<u>Rendon</u>	Homeless multidisciplinary personnel teams.	Support	4.23.24	Senate Committee on Human Services
<u>SB 1245</u>	<u>Ochoa Bogh</u>	In-home supportive services: licensed health care professional certification.	Support	4.23.24	Senate Committee on Appropriations
<u>SB 1396</u>	<u>Alvarado-Gil</u>	CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program.	Support	4.23.24	Senate Committee on Appropriations
<u>AB 2266</u>	<u>Petrie-Norris</u>	California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project: vehicle eligibility.	Support	4.9.24	Assembly Committee on Transportation
<u>AB 2626</u>	<u>Dixon</u>	Advanced Clean Fleets regulations: local governments.	Support	4.9.24	Assembly Committee on Transportation
<u>AB 2815</u>	<u>Petrie-Norris</u>	Clean Transportation Program: electric vehicle charging stations.	Support	4.9.24	Assembly Committee on Appropriations
<u>SB 21</u>	<u>Umberg</u>	Controlled substances.	Support	4.9.24	Assembly Committee on Appropriations
<u>SB 1057</u>	<u>Menjivar</u>	Juvenile justice coordinating council.	Oppose	4.9.24	Senate Committee on Appropriations
<u>AB 2081</u>	<u>Davies</u>	Substance abuse: recovery and treatment programs.	Support	3.26.24	Assembly Committee on Appropriations
<u>AB 2574</u>	<u>Valencia</u>	Alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities.	Support	3.26.24	Assembly Committee on Appropriations
<u>SB 913</u>	<u>Umberg</u>	Substance use disorder treatment: facilities.	Support	3.26.24	Senate Committee on Appropriations
<u>AB 1168</u>	<u>Bennett</u>	Emergency Medical Services (EMS): prehospital EMS	Oppose	6.27.23	Senate Floor 2 Year Bill

Federal Legislation

As of Thursday, May 2, 2024

Bill No.	Author	Subject	Position	Date of Board Action	Status
<u>S 3444</u>	<u>Padilla</u>	Local 9-8-8 Response Act of 2023	Support	3.26.24	Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
<u>HR 3862</u>	<u>Levin</u>	Spent Fuel Prioritization Act of 2023	Support	6.27.23	House Committee on Energy and Commerce

<u>HR 467</u>	<u>Griffith</u>	Halt All Lethal Trafficking (HALT) of Fentanyl Act	Support	6.06.23	Senate Committee on the Judiciary
<u>S 971</u>	<u>Cassidy</u>	Due Process Continuity of Care Act	Support	6.06.23	Senate Committee on Finance
<u>HR 516</u>	<u>Lieu</u>	Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act	Support	4.25.23	House Committee on Financial Services
<u>HR 984</u>	<u>Levin</u>	Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act	Support	4.25.23	House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
<u>S 24</u>	<u>Feinstein</u>	Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act	Support	4.25.23	Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions



Highlighted sections symbolize a status change.

2. Sacramento Legislative Report

Prepared by Precision Advocacy Group LLC

Last week was the deadline for legislation with a fiscal impact to move forward out of policy committees. Upcoming deadlines include May 17 to move legislation from fiscal committees to the floor and May 24 to move legislation out of its house of origin.

It was determined on April 24 that one of the County's sponsored bills, SB 1334 addressing the overconcentration and safety issues of unlicensed recovery residences, will not move forward through the legislative process this year. The author of the bill, Senator Josh Newman, opted to pull the bill from consideration in the Senate Health Committee last week as a consensus on the policy could not be reached with the committee chair. We will continue to work on the issue moving forward in partnership with the County. Other legislation addressing similar issues has been shelved or substantially amended.

- **AB 2081 (Davies) Substance abuse: recovery and treatment programs**, supported by the County, would require an operator of a licensed alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facility or certified alcohol or other drug program to include on its website and intake form paperwork a disclosure that an individual may check the website of the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to confirm whether the facility's license or program's certification has been placed in probationary status, been subject to a temporary suspension order, been revoked, or the operator has been given a notice of operation in violation of law.
Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee
- **AB 2121 (Dixon) Substance use disorder treatment: licensing**, would have established a 300-foot distance requirement between sober living homes licensed by the DHCS and community care facilities licensed by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Additionally, it would have required the DHCS and DSS to notify in writing the city or county of the issuance of a license pursuant to this section.
Status: This measure is dead, as the Assembly Health Committee would not set the bill for hearing if it maintained distance requirements in the language.
- **AB 2574 (Valencia) Alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities**, would require an organization that operates, conducts, owns, or maintains a certified program or a licensed facility to disclose to the DHCS whether the licensee, or a general partner, director, or officer of the licensee owns or has a financial interest in a recovery residence and whether it has contractual relationships with entities that provide recovery services to clients of certified programs or licensed facilities if the entity is not a part of a certified program or a licensed facility.
Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee
- **AB 2893 (Ward) The Shared Recovery Housing Residency Program**, requires the DHCS to establish a certification process for recovery homes and adds a standard for recovery homes that meets the state's Housing First requirements.
Status: Awaiting hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee
- **SB 913 (Umberg) Substance use disorder treatment: facilities**, permits city attorneys, county counsel, or the county behavioral health agency as specified and with the consent or approval of the DHCS, to enforce specified provisions or conduct announced or unannounced site visits of licensed alcohol or drug recovery or treatment facilities.
Status: Awaiting hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee
- **SB 1339 (Allen) Supportive community residences**, requires the DHCS by January 1, 2027 and in consultation with relevant state and county agencies and other stakeholders, to create a voluntary certification program for "supportive community residences," providing housing for adults with a substance use disorder, mental health diagnosis, or dual diagnosis seeking a cooperative living arrangement that does not provide medical care or a level of support for activities of daily living that require state licensing.
Status: Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 6

State Implements One-Time Spending Freeze

In response to the ongoing fiscal challenges outlined in the recently enacted early action budget bill, [AB 106](#) (Gabriel, 2024), the Department of Finance has initiated a spending freeze on certain one-time appropriations. This directive, outlined in a formal budget [letter](#) to state departments, marks a proactive step towards fiscal responsibility in light of projected deficits and uncertain revenue streams.

As previously reported, the early action budget, which was signed by the governor on April 15, aimed to mitigate the impact of the deficit through a combination of program cuts, revenue generation, internal borrowing, and strategic funding delays and shifts to address the budget shortfall estimated at somewhere between \$38 billion and \$73 billion next year.

The freeze, enacted under Section 74 of AB 106, targets one-time appropriations authorized in the 2021, 2022, and 2023 budget acts. It affects unallocated funds exceeding \$1 million from the General Fund, excluding those earmarked for Proposition 98 or specific capital projects or emergency-related expenditures.

Departments receiving such appropriations are being instructed to halt spending or encumbering these resources immediately. The aim is to assess remaining funds and potential impacts in alignment with the new directive. Furthermore, the freeze is expected to provide the governor and the legislature with a broader array of options to balance the 2024 state budget come June.

This directive underscores the gravity of the state's financial situation, compounded by delayed tax receipts and ongoing deficits. By curbing one-time spending, the state aims to preserve reserves for future emergencies and funding priorities, mitigating the need for drastic measures like program cuts or tax hikes in the near term.

The memorandum accompanying the directive emphasizes the importance of compliance, urging agency secretaries, department directors, and budget officers to adhere to the provisions. With fiscal prudence at the forefront, this spending freeze represents a strategic move towards ensuring long-term financial stability for the state.

As of this writing, it is unclear how this directive will impact the County. Precision will continue to engage in discussions with CEO/Legislative Affairs and department staff and provide updates, as needed. The Department of Finance does not have a specific list of programs that will be impacted by this action.

The administration's revenue projections are anticipated to be substantially amended downward in the governor's May revision on May 14, based on lower than anticipated revenues. However, the state's personal income tax (PIT) [collections](#) for April appear more promising than expected. The 2024-25 governor's budget released in January estimated April 2024 PIT collections would total \$16.3 billion. As of May 1, collections minus refunds for May have totaled more than \$16.44 billion.

Senate Transportation Subcommittee Informational Hearing on LOSSAN Rail Corridor

The Senate Transportation Subcommittee on LOSSAN Rail Corridor Resiliency held their fourth informational hearing on Monday titled "Waves and Trains – Revitalizing Rail" including two panels - one featuring local stakeholders focused on current situational needs and the second on updates from State Transportation and Natural Resources Agencies.

Chaired by Senator Catherine Blakespear (D-Encinitas), the hearing was attended by subcommittee members Senators Janet Nguyen (R-Huntington Beach), Tom Umberg (Santa Ana), Josh Newman (D-Fullerton), and Ben Allen (D-El Segundo) as well as Senators Bob Archuleta (D-Norwalk) and John Laird (D-Santa Cruz). The hearing included presentations by Andy Hall, City Manager of San Clemente; Jason Jewell, Managing Director of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency; Darren Kettle,

CEO of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink); Darrell Johnson, CEO of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA); Christopher Calfee, Special Counsel to the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency; Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission; and Chad Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary, Rail and Transit at the California State Transportation Agency.

The 351-mile Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor (LOSSAN Corridor) travels through a six-county coastal region in Southern California and is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor in the United States and the busiest state-supported Amtrak route. Eight million people moved through the corridor annually pre pandemic. Today, \$1 billion dollars' worth of goods are transported along the route annually.

A landslide occurred within the corridor on January 24 of this year, shutting down all passenger service between San Juan Capistrano and Oceanside, with limited service returning in March. In her opening remarks, Chair Blakespear emphasized that the rail is at significant risk of failure and that a different approach is needed for planning, maintaining and operating such a complex corridor.

In his brief presentation Mr. Hall emphasized the need to make sand replenishment as efficient as possible to help support the surfliner rail. Mr. Jewell highlighted the positive collaboration among stakeholders and gave the committee some highlights around ridership numbers noting that the corridor fell well below their target of 55% farebox recovery to 33% while bus bridges had been in effect and the rail line was unable to reopen. Following the reopening of limited rail service in March (a morning train and an evening train) ridership increased by 63% and revenue increased by 66%. He complimented the continued coordination among all corridor partners and stakeholders.

In his comments, Mr. Kettle detailed some of the high-risk areas along the rail line and potential solutions. Catchment walls are expensive to build but do help stabilize the hills from landslides. In Cypress Shores and Castamonica, sensors have been installed to monitor slope movement and he recommended that monitors be installed in other hot spot areas. Mr. Kettle noted that the other significant issue facing LOSSAN is the erosion of track infrastructure in an oceanfront environment and recommended an engineered revetment or facade combined with sand replenishment to protect against further erosion. He applauded the local collaboration among stakeholders during the San Clemente closure and re-opening.

Mr. Johnson discussed how the 2022 Cypress Shores incident led to new policy responses from the California Department of Transportation and the OCTA Board. The California Transportation Commission established a new policy that allowed for funding allocation on public owned rail lines on an emergency basis. The new policy allowed for work to be completed more quickly with the recent Casa Romantica and Mariposa Point landslides. He highlighted OCTA's short to medium term solutions under the Coastal Rail Resiliency Study which is underway to develop options to protect seven miles of coastal rail infrastructure, gain an understanding of climate effects on the rail, identify potential solutions including sand replenishment and retention, and engage stakeholders. The short-term plan includes an analysis of hot spots along the corridor that are vulnerable to landslide and beach erosion. The "Long Term Solutions Study" being worked on by the OCTA board includes developing potential solutions for the coastal section of the rail, creating an action plan, partnering with LOSSAN and state and federal agencies, and engaging key stakeholders. He outlined a number of scenarios to expedite the short-term stabilization projects, emphasizing the benefits of an expedited approval process and the need for all parties to work together toward a shared goal.

Under questioning from Senator Nguyen, Mr. Hall noted that the City of San Clemente does not currently have a Local Coastal Plan in place and must get approvals from the Coastal Commission. He briefly discussed the challenges of obtaining sand for replenishment and the costs associated with dredging being the most cost and logistically efficient. He advocated for a new pre-approval process with the Coastal Commission for sand replenishment to address these types of crises more quickly.

On the same topic, Mr. Johnson emphasized the need for agencies to treat public infrastructure projects differently than private development and advocated for catchment walls, rock revetment and sand nourishment to all be a part of the solution.

Under questioning from Chair Blakespear, Mr. Johnson talked about the ultimate need to relocate the rail line including a \$4 million earmark for a study. The relocation would be 25-30 years in the future.

Beginning the second panel, Ms. Huckelbridge discussed the Coastal Commission's role in planning and community education and engagement. The Commission recently used the LOSSAN Corridor as a case study in their sea level planning guidance document. She highlighted their work with SANDAG on the Del Mar bluffs to allow rail service and access to the beach as well as emergency authorizations in the Mariposa Bridge and Casa Romantica incidents. She emphasized the need for shared principles and coordination among stakeholders.

Mr. Edison discussed the California State Transportation Agency's priorities for keeping the rail corridor open, identifying priorities for capital investment to ensure ridership growth, and transparent communication and planning. He detailed the state's more than \$4.3 billion investment in the corridor over the last 10 years. Mr. Calfee of the California Natural Resources Agency detailed coordination between state permitting agencies around projects on the LOSSAN rail corridor.

Senator Archuleta encouraged the state agency panel to work proactively with local stakeholders to address the needs of the LOSSAN Corridor. Chair Blakespear noted that she was struck by how far we are from reaching the goals set forth in the state rail plan. She noted that California is not currently applying for any federal funding under the Infrastructure and Jobs Act and or for High-Speed Rail. She asked the panel what could be done to make more than incremental progress.

In response, Mr. Edison said the California State Transportation Agency is aggressively working to make the corridor better and work through the current projects in the pipeline that may need additional financial resources.

Ms. Huckelbridge noted that the Commission is working on a nature-based solution guidance document and acknowledged that sand replenishment can be considered a nature-based solution. The Coastal Commission's priority is to maintain beach access to the public in addition to rail access.

Chair Blakespear closed the hearing noting that the rail corridor is not operating at its highest potential. She applauded the engagement of all stakeholders and the public on the issue and encouraged all to continue to collaborate on the shared commitment of protecting the LOSSAN corridor. She encouraged stakeholders and the public to submit additional comments to the subcommittee in writing.

Levine Act Legislation

In 2022, [SB 1439](#) was chaptered into law applying the existing campaign contribution prohibition for state and local agencies to local elected agencies, such as city councils and boards of supervisors, and expanding the timeframe prohibiting specific contributions following an official's action from three months to 12 months. Specifically:

- Local elected officials must now recuse themselves from most license, permit, contract, or other entitlement decisions involving a person who contributed \$250 or more to their political campaigns within the 12 months before the decision, unless they comply with specific disclosure and refund requirements.
- The law also prohibits local elected officials from accepting, soliciting, or directing campaign contributions over \$250 from a party or participant involved in a pending proceeding to any political campaign committee — their own or others. This prohibition lasts 12 months after a final decision.

This year, two bills have been introduced to amend the provisions of SB 1439 and make compliance a bit less onerous - [AB 2911](#) and [SB 1243](#). AB 2911 (McKinnor) increases, from \$250 to \$1,500, the threshold at which campaign contributions received by specified public officials can cause those officials to be disqualified from participating in or influencing decisions related to licensing, permitting, and similar entitlements for use if the contributions were received from an entity with a financial interest in that decision. It is pending a full vote of the Assembly. SB 1243 (Dodd) would increase the threshold for contributions to \$1000 and limit the time frame for contributions to 9 months before and after the final decision. Additionally, the time frame to cure a violation would be extended to 30 days. SB 1243 is pending consideration by the full Senate.

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, May 06, 2024, 11 a.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 7 on Accountability and Oversight

Location: 1021 O Street, Room 1100

Oversight of State Homelessness Efforts: Coordinating Council, Grants, and Local Implementation

Monday, May 06, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health

Location: State Capitol, Room 127

Oversight Hearing: Medi-Cal Provider Rates

Tuesday, May 07, 2024, 9 a.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance

Location: State Capitol, Room 447

Governor's Budget Proposals and Oversight: College of the Law, San Francisco; California State Library; and ScholarShare Investment Board CalKids Program

Tuesday, May 07, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on State Administration

Location: State Capitol, Room 447

Spring Finance Letters - Open Issues

Wednesday, May 08, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation

Location: State Capitol, Room 447

Reviewing State Funding for Public Transit and Extension of California Environmental Quality Act Exemption for Climate Resiliency and Biodiversity Projects

Wednesday, May 08, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Assembly Utilities and Energy

Location: 1021 O Street, Room 1100

Annual Oversight Hearing of California's Energy Entities: Reliability in the Near- and Mid-Term.

Thursday, May 09, 2024, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education

Location: 1021 O Street, Room 2100

All Departments - Open Issues

Thursday, May 09, 2024, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Energy

Location: 1021 O Street, Room 2200
All Departments - Open Issues

Thursday, May 09, 2024, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services

Location: 1021 O Street, Room 1200
All Departments - Open Issues

Thursday, May 09, 2024, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government

Location: State Capitol, Room 113
Tax Proposals and Program Oversight: Department of Tax and Fee Administration, Franchise Tax Board, and all departments - open issues

Thursday, May 09, 2024, 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

Location: State Capitol, Room 112
All Departments - Open Issues

Monday, May 13, 2024, 2:30 P.M.
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 6 on Public Safety

Location: State Capitol, Room 437
All Departments / May Revision

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 1:30 P.M.
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on State Administration

Location: State Capitol, Room 447
May Revision

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 1:30 P.M.
Assembly Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Location: State Capitol, Room 444

1. Elect Committee Chair
2. Consider New Audit Requests

Note: Audit requests must have been received by March 19, 2024, to be considered at this hearing.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 1 P.M.
Assembly Insurance

Location: State Capitol, Room 126
Oversight Hearing: Sustainable Insurance Strategy: Progress

Governor's Press Releases

Below is a list of the governor's press releases beginning April 24.

May 1: [State Law Enforcement Makes 500+ Arrests, Removes Nearly 700 Pounds of Fentanyl as Part of San Francisco Operation](#)

May 1: [Governor Newsom Proclaims Small Business Month 2024](#)

April 30: [Governor Newsom Signs Legislation 4.30.24](#)

April 30: [Governor Newsom Proclaims Older Californians Month 2024](#)

April 30: [Governor Newsom Proclaims Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2024](#)

April 30: [California's Population is Increasing](#)

April 30: [Protecting the Central Valley: Results Show Initial Success in CHP's Operations to Take Down Crime](#)

April 30: [Protegiendo al Valle Central: Resultados Muestran el Éxito Inicial de los Esfuerzos de CHP para Acabar con el Crimen](#)

April 29: [APPLY TODAY: Cash for College](#)

April 29: [ICYMI: Newsom Administration Votes to Rein in Increasing Health Care Costs](#)

April 29: [Governor Newsom Honors Fallen Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Stewart](#)

April 29: [California to Purchase CalRx Branded Over-the-Counter Naloxone for \\$24](#)

April 28: [Governor Newsom Proclaims Workers' Memorial Day 2024](#)

April 27: [Governor Newsom Proclaims Arab American Heritage Month 2024](#)

April 27: [There's Now 1 Fast Charging Station for Every 5 Gas Stations in California](#)

April 26: [California Takes Action to Protect Youth from Illegal Hemp Products](#)

April 26: [Earth Week in California: World-Leading Climate Targets + Major Milestones and Partnerships + New State Park](#)

April 26: [A Step Towards Healing and Restoration: California to Support the Return of Ancestral Tribal Lands and Lands Management Projects](#)

April 26: [California's Investment Boom: New Round of State Funding to Generate \\$15.5 Billion in New Investments, 2,100 New Jobs](#)

April 25: [Governor Newsom Announces Appointments 4.25.24](#)

- David Briggs, of Oakland, has been appointed to the California Earthquake Early Warning Advisory Board
- Heidi Rummel, of Los Angeles, has been appointed to the California Committee on Revision of the Penal Code
- Renee Armendariz Barker, of San Carlos, has been reappointed to the State Board of Pharmacy, where she has served since 2022
- Andrew Tavakoli, of Beverly Hills, has been appointed to the Exposition Park and California Science Center Board of Directors
- Heather Bernikoff, of Catheys Valley, has been appointed to the California Exposition and State Fair Board of Directors
- Adrienne Mohan, of Long Beach, has been appointed to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

April 25: [California Achieves Major Clean Energy Victory: 10,000 Megawatts of Battery Storage](#)

April 24: [TOMORROW: In Yolo County, Governor Newsom to Announce Major Clean Energy Milestone](#)

April 24: [Governor Newsom Announces Appointments 4.24.24](#)

- Jason Tam, of San Francisco, has been appointed to the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs
- Michael Allen, of Santa Rosa, has been reappointed to the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, where he has served since 2013
- Julia Clauson, of Fair Oaks, has been appointed to the State Board of Education

3. Washington DC Legislative Report

Prepared by Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY

House and Senate Release Compromised FAA Reauthorization Bill Text

On April 28, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves announced a bicameral agreement to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration and publicly released the bill text. The Senate began procedural votes for the package this week. Funding for the FAA is set to expire on May 10, congressional leadership has committed to advancing the legislation to avoid a funding lapse. Major national and California industry groups support the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

Under the agreement the FAA will receive \$105 billion over the next five years through FY2028 for operations. The measure would also reauthorize the National Transportation Safety Board, allotting \$738 million over five years. The bill would also make it possible for the FAA to hire and train air traffic controllers to close a gap of 3,000 vacancies. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics there are 250 air traffic control vacancies in California. The bill mandates more research into how many controllers are needed at each tower and center and increases access to training simulators in more air traffic control towers nationwide.

The pilot retirement age was not raised to 67 from 65. International rules would have prevented airline pilots older than 65 from flying in most countries. Retirement age was a bicameral point of opposition. Last July, the House voted on H.R. 3935--their FAA reauthorization package--that would raise the retirement age. However, the Senate Commerce Committee voted to reject the increase. That led to delays for FAA reauthorization last year.

County Relevance

- Orange County's John Wayne airport is regulated by the FAA and benefits from grant programs authorized by the FAA reauthorization bill. These grants include the Airport Terminal Program, and Airport Improvement Program.
- John Wayne Airport supported two sections in the Senate's version of FAA reauthorization. Those sections, Section 626 and Section 627 authorize a \$350 million grant program to assist airports in transitioning to fluorine-free firefighting foam and direct FAA to update congress every six months on further development and implementation of its national transition plan for airports.
- John Wayne Airport and Orange County advocated for these two sections to be included in the final FAA reauthorization bill and both are part of the legislation moving through the Senate this week.

House Passes Veterans Economic Opportunity Legislation

The House passed the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act ([H.R. 3738](#)) on Tuesday. H.R. 3738 has moved to the Senate for further consideration.

The legislation directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The new subsidiary would implement the Transition Assistance Program--and its vocational rehabilitation, education, and housing loan programs--for veterans and their dependents and survivors.

Creating the new administration would increase discretionary spending by \$66 million from FY2024-FY2033 according to the Congressional Budget Office. The VA would be required to include information on the volume and processing of the claims that the new administration receives in its annual report to Congress.

Supporters of H.R. 3738 include the Disabled American Veterans, Student Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Congressman Mike Levin is an original cosponsor. To read his press release please visit levin.house.gov.

County Relevance

- There are nearly 130,000 veterans in Orange County, and 1.8 million veterans in California.
- This legislation will further assist local governments in helping veterans transition into the civilian workforce.

Bipartisan California Lawmakers Pass Fire Weather Legislation in the House

This week, Congresswoman Young Kim and Congressman Mike Garcia's Fire Weather Development Act ([H.R. 4866](http://H.R.4866)) passed in the House. The collaborative legislation aims to expand fire weather and environment monitoring and forecasting capabilities. The objective is to improve communications and data accessibility for first responders and meteorological personnel.

H.R. 4866 directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to create and improve fire weather and environment forecasting and detection through federal, state, and local collaboration by:

- Allowing NOAA to enter private contracts to gain airborne and space-based data to enhance fire weather and fire environment monitoring and prediction.
- Giving NOAA the ability to assess drone use to improve data collection and to conduct drone pilot programs.
- Creating an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Wildfires to accurately detect and forecast wildfires to assist state and local emergency officials.
- Setting up a National Advisory Committee on Wildfires to offer recommendations on wildfire forecasting communication and opportunities to streamline Federal forecasting and detection data to local communities.
- Developing a fire weather testbed to evaluate technology and fire weather tools and services.
- Directing NOAA to submit an assessment of National Weather Service workforce challenges for Incident Meteorologists and a plan of action to address these challenges.

County Relevance

- California averages between 7,000-8,000 wildfires per year. Managing wildfires is a major statewide effort every year for federal, state, and local leaders.
- So far in 2024, Orange County has had over 1,000 acres of land affected by wildfire events.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY

The White House Urges Congress to Extend the Affordable Connectivity Program in its Final Month

On May 1, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) entered the final month in which households can receive benefits toward their internet bills. The program reduced its volume last month to preserve financial resources. On Wednesday morning, the White House urged Congress again to extend the program. Last October, President Biden sent Congress a \$6 billion supplemental request for the program's extension. To view a breakdown of California's enrollment and funding per congressional district please visit whitehouse.gov.

Prospects for continued ACP funding are uncertain. Congress is continuing to check mandatory spending items off its list. FAA Reauthorization legislation is on track to pass ahead of its May 10 funding deadline. However, the politics between Speaker Mike Johnson and the House Freedom Caucus could complicate action on items that are not mandatory. The ACP is not a mandatory spending item; it was enacted as a temporary measure in response to COVID-19. Spending for the program was authorized for emergency use, but the pandemic has ended. Lawmakers have cited differences in funding for its permanence.

National, state, and local broadband groups support the ACP, so a push can be expected in the final month.

County Relevance

- An estimated 192,000 households in Orange County are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program and risk losing their monthly subsidy.
- According to data from the State of California, 38 percent of Orange County households are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- 48 percent of Orange County's eligible households have enrolled in the program. The remaining eligible households who have not enrolled in the program will not be able to enroll due to the pause announced this week.

Department of Transportation Finalizes Rule to Reduce Car Crashes

The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) finalized a new vehicle safety guideline that will make automatic emergency braking (AEB) standard on all passenger cars and light trucks by September 2029. This rule is expected to reduce car crashes. NHTSA predicts that 24,000 injuries will be prevented and 360 lives will be saved yearly.

The new rule—titled [Automatic Emergency Braking Systems for Light Vehicles](#)—requires all cars to be able to stop and avoid contact with a vehicle in front of them at speeds up to 62 miles per hour. Additionally, the systems must detect pedestrians in both daylight and darkness. Lastly, the rule requires that the system applies the brakes automatically at speeds up to 90 miles per hour when a collision with a lead vehicle is imminent, and speeds up to 45 miles per hour when a pedestrian is detected.

A provision that requires that all passenger vehicles be equipped with AEB was established in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The State of California does not have a precedent for automatic emergency braking. They must enforce the new standards on all vehicles that weigh 10,000 pounds or less.

County Relevance

- The regulation will impact every driver in the country, including Orange County.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY ORANGE COUNTY DELEGATION

Rep. Young Kim

- **H.Res.1174** - Supporting the goals and ideals of Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month.

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.