



Alameda County
Social Services Agency

2023 End of Session Summary

California State Legislation

Prepared by

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Government and Community Relations
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Table Of Contents

01

2023 End of Session Overview

02

SECTION I: Chaptered Legislation

1. <u>Government & Community Relations (GCR)</u>	<u>2</u>
2. <u>Adult & Aging Services (AAS)</u>	<u>7</u>
3. <u>Children & Family Services (CFS)</u>	<u>12</u>
4. <u>Workforce & Benefits Administration (WBA)</u>	<u>24</u>

03

SECTION II: Vetoed Bills

1. <u>Government & Community Relations (GCR)</u>	<u>32</u>
2. <u>Adult & Aging Services (AAS)</u>	<u>38</u>
3. <u>Children & Family Services (CFS)</u>	<u>40</u>
4. <u>Workforce & Benefits Administration (WBA)</u>	<u>50</u>

04

SECTION III: Bills from Other Organizations

1. <u>Health Care Services Agency Chaptered Bills</u>	<u>63</u>
-------------------------------------------------------	-----------

Overview

Between January and October 2023, the Office of Policy, Strategy, and Innovation (PSI) within the Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA) – Government and Community Relations Department identified 61 bills being considered by the California State Legislature for passage as law that may have a direct impact on ACSSA clients and/or operations. PSI then performed an analysis of each bill, ultimately recommending that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors take a position of Support, Watch, or Watch with Concerns. The 2023 End of Session Summary reports out on the outcome of these bills, grouping them into two major categories: chaptered or vetoed. Within these categories, the tracked bills are broken out by the relevant ACSSA department. The policy areas of focus of each department are outlined below.

Policy Areas of Focus



Government &
Community
Relations (GCR)

Housing, Homeless, Disaster Preparedness, Human Trafficking, Early Care & Education, Program Integrity Division, Workforce Development Board



Adult & Aging
Services (AAS)

Adult Protective Services (APS), Area Agency on Aging (AAA), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), People with Disabilities, Public Administrator / Public Guardian-Conservator



Children & Family
Services (CFS)

Adoptions, Dependency Investigations, Emergency Child Abuse Response & Child Abuse Hotline, Family Maintenance, Permanent Youth Connections & Legal Guardianships, Resource Families & Placement Services



Workforce &
Benefits
Administration

CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, Medi-Cal

Notes

Chaptered and vetoed bill reports have been extracted by the PSI team. This document is reflective of the most recent data available. It is important to note that true local impact will be dependent upon pending guidance and information that will be set forth by the State.

Method of Tracking: PSI used CapitolTrack, a California focused legislative software, to track 61 state bills in the 2023 legislative cycle

SECTION 1: Chaptered Legislation



Government and Community Relations (GCR)

Housing, Homeless, Disaster Preparedness, Human Trafficking, Early Care & Education, Program Integrity Division, Workforce Development Board

The Legislature and Governor were in agreement on a number of policy issues that impact not only residents of Alameda County, but communities statewide.

Given the attack on reproductive rights across the nation, the Governor signed bills related to privacy for both patients and practitioners in relation to family planning services. These bills were of high priority for the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

Additionally, the Governor signed bills designed to address homelessness and shelter in new ways. These bills address homelessness for individuals with behavioral health conditions and veterans. When families receive assistance to address homelessness or unstable housing, they too often face additional barriers to integrating in the housing market. The Governor signed a bill that directly eases one of the hurdles that can keep vulnerable individuals and families out of housing, despite their receipt of assistance.

AB 531**Name:** The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023.**Author:** Irwin (D)**Chaptered:** 10/12/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would provide that projects funded by the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024 that provide housing for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness and who are inherently impacted by or at increased risk for medical diseases or conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other communicable diseases and are disbursed in accordance with the Multifamily Housing Program, or projects that are disbursed in accordance with the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program, are a use by right and subject to the streamlined, ministerial review process. The bill would define use by right for these purposes to mean that the local government's review of the project does not require a conditional use permit, planned unit development permit, or other discretionary local government review or approval that would constitute a project subject to the approval process in CEQA.

SSA Position: Priority Watch**Subject:** Housing, Homeless, Veterans**AB 781****Name:** Accessibility to emergency information and services: emergency shelters: persons with pets.**Author:** Maienschein (D)**Chaptered:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: The California Emergency Services Act provides that political subdivisions, as defined, have full power during a local emergency to provide mutual aid to any affected area in accordance with local ordinances, resolutions, emergency plans, or agreements. Current law defines "emergency plan" for these purposes to mean official and approved documents that describe the principles and methods to be applied in carrying out emergency operations or rendering mutual aid during emergencies. Current law requires that a county send a copy of its emergency plan to the Office of Emergency Services upon an update to the plan. Upon the next update to a city or county's emergency plan, this bill would require a county to update its emergency plan to designate emergency shelters able to accommodate persons with pets, and would require a city that has previously adopted an emergency plan designating emergency shelters to update its emergency plan to designate emergency shelters able to accommodate persons with pets. This bill would require, upon the next update to a city or county's emergency plan, whenever a city or county designates any number of emergency shelters that it also designate at least one emergency shelter that can accommodate persons with pets. This bill would also require, upon the next update to a city or county's emergency plan, whenever a city or county designates any number of cooling centers or warming centers, that it also, to the extent practicable, designate at least one cooling center or warming center, as applicable, that can accommodate persons with pets. The bill would require an emergency shelter designated as able to accommodate persons with pets to be in compliance with safety procedures

regarding the sheltering of pets referenced or established in the component of the state and local emergency plan and applicable disaster assistance policies and procedures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SSA Position: Priority Watch
Subject: Housing, Homeless, Veterans
Associations: CWDA Support (3)
PAL Request: Approved

AB 1474

Name: California Statewide Housing Plan.

Author: Reyes (D)

Chaptered: 10/11/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes the California Statewide Housing Plan, developed in cooperation with the private housing industry, regional and local housing and planning agencies, and other agencies of the state, to serve as a state housing plan. Current law requires the plan to incorporate specified segments, including, among others, a housing strategy that coordinates the housing assistance and activities of state and local agencies, including the provision of housing assistance for various population groups, including, but not limited to, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and other specific population groups as deemed appropriate by the department. This bill would add veterans to the list of population groups included in the housing strategy described above. The bill would require the department to also consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs in developing the housing strategy, to the extent possible. This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 50423 of the Health and Safety Code proposed by AB 1764 to be operative only if this bill and AB 1764 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Housing, Veterans

SB 267

Name: Credit history of persons receiving government rent subsidies.

Author: Eggman (D)

Chaptered: 10/11/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) prohibits, in instances in which there is a government rent subsidy, the use of a financial or income standard in assessing eligibility for the rental of housing that is not based on the portion of the rent to be paid by the tenant. FEHA requires the Civil Rights Department to enforce specific provisions of the act, including the provision described above. This bill would additionally prohibit the accommodation without offering the applicant the option of providing lawful, verifiable alternative evidence of the applicant's reasonable ability to pay the portion of the rent to be paid by the tenant, including, but not limited to, government benefit payments, pay records, and bank statements, in instances in which there is a government rent subsidy.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Housing
Associations: CWDA Support (3)
PAL Request: Approved

SB 35

Name: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.

Author: Reyes (D)

Chaptered: 10/11/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would authorize the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act proceedings to be conducted by a superior court judge or by a court-appointed commissioner or other subordinate judicial officer. The bill would require that there is no fee for filing a petition nor any fees charged by any public officer for services in filing or serving papers or for the performance of any duty enjoined by the CARE Act. The bill would authorize that the respondent is entitled to have an interpreter in all proceedings if necessary for the respondent's full participation. This bill would require county behavioral health agencies to provide health information necessary to support findings in the filings to the court, as specified, and would exempt counties and their employees from civil or criminal liability for disclosure under these provisions. By increasing the reporting duties on county behavioral health agencies, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

SSA Position: Priority Watch
Subject: Conservator, Homeless, Mental Health, Priority
Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 376

Name: Human trafficking: victim rights.

Author: Rubio (D)

Chaptered: 7/21/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would authorize that a victim of human trafficking or abuse has the right to have a human trafficking advocate, as defined, and a support person of the victim's choosing present at an interview by a law enforcement authority, prosecutor, or the suspect's defense attorney and would require the human trafficking advocate to advise the victim of the applicable limitations on the confidentiality of the victim's communications with the advocate. The bill would authorize the law enforcement officer or the prosecutor to exclude the support person, but not the human trafficking advocate, if they believe that the support person's presence would be detrimental to the process. The bill would require the attending law enforcement authority or prosecutor to notify a victim of human trafficking or abuse of their right to have a human trafficking advocate and support person of their choosing present at the interview, as specified. By creating a new notification requirement for local law enforcement and prosecutors, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Human Trafficking
Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 411

Name: Open meetings: teleconferences: neighborhood councils.

Author: Portantino (D)

Chaptered: 10/9/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would, until January 1, 2026, authorize an eligible legislative body to use alternate teleconferencing provisions related to notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed, if the city council has adopted an authorizing resolution and 2/3 of an eligible legislative body votes to use the alternate teleconferencing provisions. The bill would define “eligible legislative body” for this purpose to mean a neighborhood council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to the act. The bill would require an eligible legislative body authorized under the bill to provide publicly accessible physical locations for public participation, as prescribed. The bill would also require that at least a quorum of the members of the neighborhood council participate from locations within the boundaries of the city in which the neighborhood council is established. The bill would require that, at least once per year, at least a quorum of the members of the eligible legislative body participate in person from a singular physical location that is open to the public and within the boundaries of the eligible legislative body.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Access
Associations: CWDA Watch and Refer

SECTION 1: Chaptered Legislation



Adult & Aging Services (AAS)

Adult Protective Services (APS), Area Agency on Aging (AAA), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), People with Disabilities, Public Administrator/Public Guardian-Conservator, and Veterans Services

The Legislature passed a number of bills related to Adult and Aging, with a strong focus on protecting the safety and well-being of older adults.

Many of the bills aim to safeguard residents in long-term care facilities. For example, AB 1417 adjusts the procedures for mandatory reporting of elder abuse in such facilities, AB 979 supports family councils that advocate for their residents, and AB 1309 requires long-term care facilities to provide patients who are being transferred or discharged with a copy of their discharge plan.

Other bills focused on adult protection. For example, AB 751 requires local law enforcement agencies to include procedures for investigating elder abuse in their policies, while AB 386 makes it easier for law enforcement to investigate the financial abuse and fraud to which many older people are vulnerable.

Finally, SB 280 requires conservators to file care plans regarding the care, custody, and control of their conservatees. Collectively, these bills will apply to the more than 370,000 older adults projected to live in Alameda County in 2023.

AB 386**Name:** California Right to Financial Privacy Act.**Author:** Nguyen (D)**Chaptered:** 9/27/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: The California Right to Financial Privacy Act generally provides for the confidentiality of, and restricts access to, the financial records of people who transact business with, or use the services of, financial institutions or for whom a financial institution has acted as a fiduciary. Current law establishes an exception by authorizing various state and local agencies, when certification is made to a bank, credit union, or savings association by specified law enforcement entities that a crime report has been filed that involves the alleged fraudulent use of orders drawn upon a bank, credit union, or savings association in this state, to request from such a bank, credit union, or savings association, and requires the bank, credit union, or savings association to furnish, a statement setting forth certain information with respect to a customer account specified by the requesting party, for a period of 30 days before, and up to 30 days following, the date of occurrence of the alleged illegal act involving the account. This bill would expand the period covered by that statement of information to a period 90 days before, and up to 60 days following, the date of occurrence.

SSA Position: Support**Subject:** Adult Protective Services, Confidentiality, Older Adults**Associations:** CWDA Support (1)**PAL Request:** Approved**AB 751****Name:** Elder abuse.**Author:** Schiavo (D)**Chaptered:** 6/29/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires every local law enforcement agency to, when the agency next undertakes the policy revision process, revise or include specified information about the elements of elder abuse crimes in the portion of its policy manual relating to elder and dependent adult abuse, if that policy manual exists. Current law requires a municipal police department or county sheriffs' department that adopts or revises a policy regarding elder and dependent adult abuse or senior and disability victimization on or after April 13, 2021, to include specified provisions regarding procedures for investigating elder abuse in that policy. This bill would clarify that a department that complied or complies with the requirements above regarding including specified information about the elements of elder abuse crimes in their policy manuals on or after April 13, 2021, is required to include the specified provisions regarding procedures for investigating elder abuse in their policy.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Area Agency on Aging, Older Adults**Associations:** CWDA Support (3)**PAL Request:** Approved

AB 839**Name:** Residential care facilities for the elderly: financing.**Author:** Addis (D)**Chaptered:** 10/10/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Under current law, the California Health Facilities Financing Authority Act, the California Health Facilities Financing Authority is authorized to make and fund loans through the issuance of revenue bonds, and award grants, to finance or refinance projects by participating health institutions, as defined. Under the act, projects include construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation, furnishing, or equipping, or funding, financing, or refinancing of a health facility, as defined, or acquisition of a health facility to be financed or refinanced with funds provided in whole or in part pursuant to the act. Under the act, the California Health Facilities Financing Authority Fund is created, with moneys in the fund continuously appropriated to the authority for carrying out the purposes of the act. This bill would expand the above-described program to include residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFEs) by adding an RCFE to the definition of “health facility” under the program. The bill would make conforming changes to related provisions. The bill would clarify that other provisions under existing law relating to health facilities would not be affected by the expanded definition, as specified.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Area Agency on Aging, Long-term Care, Residential Facilities**Associations:** CWDA Support (3)**AB 979****Name:** Long-term care: family councils.**Author:** Alvarez (D)**Chaptered:** 10/13/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Public Health to license and regulate skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and intermediate care facilities (ICFs). Current law requires the State Department of Social Services to license and regulate residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFEs). A violation of those licensing provisions is generally a crime. Current law prohibits those facilities from prohibiting the formation of a family council, which is a meeting of family members, friends, or representatives of 2 or more residents to confer in private without facility staff. Current law prohibits those facilities from willfully interfering with the formation, maintenance, or promotion of a family council, as specified. This bill would make changes to the definition and scope of prohibited interference.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Area Agency on Aging, Long-term Care, Residential Facilities**Associations:** CWDA Watch

AB 1309**Name:** Long-term health care facilities: admission contracts.**Author:** Reyes (D)**Chaptered:** 10/13/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires a contract for admission to a long-term care facility to state that a resident shall not be involuntarily transferred within, or discharged from, a long-term health care facility unless the resident is given reasonable notice in writing, and transfer or discharge planning, as specified. Current law requires the notice to state the reason for the transfer or discharge. Current law requires the facility to immediately notify the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman if the discharge is involuntary. When a resident is notified in writing of a facility-initiated transfer or discharge from a long-term health care facility, existing law requires that the local long-term care ombudsman be sent a copy of the notice. This bill would require the facility to provide, within 48 hours of the written notice of a facility-initiated transfer or discharge, a copy of the resident's discharge needs and discharge plan. The bill would require the facility to provide a copy of the resident's discharge summary prior to the proposed transfer or discharge date. The bill would require the facility to provide these documents at no cost to the resident. If the resident requests a transfer or discharge appeal hearing, the bill would require both the resident and the facility to provide all documents and records to be used by the party at the hearing, as specified.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Area Agency on Aging, Long-term Care, Residential Facilities**Associations:** CWDA Watch and Refer**AB 1417****Name:** Elder and dependent adult abuse: mandated reporting.**Author:** Wood (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes certain procedures for mandated reporters to report known or suspected instances of abuse by telephone followed by a written report, or through a confidential internet reporting tool, as specified. If the abuse is physical abuse, and the abuse occurred in a long-term care facility, with exceptions, current law sets forth the reporting conditions, including those relating to the format, timelines, and recipients of the reporting. Under current law, the reporting conditions are based on whether or not the suspected abuse results in serious bodily injury, or whether the suspected abuse is allegedly caused by a resident with a physician's diagnosis of dementia and there is no serious bodily injury, as specified. If the abuse is not physical abuse, and the abuse occurred in a long-term care facility, with exceptions, existing law requires a telephone report and a written report to be made to the local ombudsman or the local law enforcement agency. This bill would delete and reorganize some of those reporting provisions. Under the bill, if the abuse that occurred in a long-term facility was allegedly caused by another resident of the facility with dementia diagnosed by a licensed physician and there was no serious bodily injury, the reporter would be required to submit a written report within 24 hours to the long-term care ombudsman and the local law enforcement agency. Under the bill, in all other instances, immediately or as soon as practically possible, but no longer than 2 hours, the reporter

would be required to submit a verbal report to the local law enforcement agency, and to submit a written report within 24 hours to the aforementioned recipients. Under the bill, the time limit for reporting would begin when the mandated reporter observes, obtains knowledge of, or suspects the abuse or neglect.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Area Agency on Aging, Long-term Care, Residential Facilities

Associations: CWDA Watch and Refer

SB 280

Name: Review of conservatorships: care plans.

Author: Laird (D)

Chaptered: 10/10/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law generally provides for the establishment, review, and termination of conservatorships. Current law specifies the persons who may be appointed as a conservator and requires the court to review a conservatorship 6 months after the initial appointment of the conservator, one year after the appointment of the conservator, and annually thereafter. Current law sets forth the powers and duties of a conservator for the care, custody, and control of a conservatee. This bill, commencing January 1, 2025, would require a conservator, within 120 calendar days of appointment and not later than 10 days before a hearing to determine the continuation or termination of an existing conservatorship, and to file a care plan regarding the care, custody, and control of the conservatee. The bill would require delivery of the care plan to specified persons, including the conservatee and their attorney, but would otherwise make the care plan confidential, except as specified, thereby limiting public access to the records. The bill would require the Judicial Council to develop a mandatory form for the care plan, which would be required to include specified information, including descriptions of the conservatee's living arrangement and level of care and any plans to modify those within the next 12 months.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Adult Protective Services, Conservator

Associations: CWDA Watch and Refer

SCR 5

Name: Older Americans Month.

Author: Nguyen (R)

Chaptered: 6/6/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would recognize the month of May 2023 as Older Americans Month and would encourage all Californians to recognize and treat all older adults with compassion and respect, and to participate in services and activities that contribute to the health welfare, and happiness of older adults.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Area Agency on Aging, Older Adults

Associations: CWDA Watch and Refer

SECTION 1: Chaptered Legislation



Children & Family Services (CFS)

Adoptions, Dependency Investigations, Emergency Response & Child Abuse Hotline, Family Maintenance, Permanent Youth Connections & Legal Guardianships, Resource Families & Placement Services

In 2023, the Governor and Legislature collectively approved numerous policies that will impact children and families in Alameda County and communities throughout California. In California, there are over 60,000 children in the foster care system and over 1500 cases in Alameda County.

The Governor has signed bills that reduce barriers and enhance services and programs for children and youth who are at-risk or are experiencing or have experienced neglect, abuse, or exploitation—including support for their parents, families, and caregivers.

For example, AB 665 removes an existing requirement that a minor must present a

danger of serious physical or mental harm to themselves or to others or be the alleged victim of incest or child abuse in order to consent to mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis. Another bill, AB 954, requires a court to inquire as to whether a parent or guardian can afford court-ordered services when making reasonable orders for a dependent child; if not, the court is prohibited from declaring the parent or guardian noncompliant with a court-ordered case plan due to an inability to pay for the case plan services.

These bills supported by the Governor signify a need to support children/youth in reuniting with their families and equip them with the resources to transition into thriving adults.

AB 230**Name:** Menstrual products: Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021.**Author:** Reyes (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: The Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021 requires a public school, as provided, maintaining any combination of classes from grades 6 to 12, inclusive, to stock the school's restrooms with an adequate supply of free menstrual products, as defined, available and accessible, free of cost, in all women's restrooms and all-gender restrooms, and in at least one men's restroom, at all times, and to post a certain notice, on or before the start of the 2022-23 school year, as prescribed. This bill would extend these requirements, commencing on or before the start of the 2024-25 school year, to instead apply to public schools maintaining any combination of classes from grades 3 to 12, inclusive.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Education**Associations:** CWDA Watch**AB 373****Name:** Intersession programs: foster children and homeless youth: priority access.**Author:** Gipson (D)**Chaptered:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: Would require a school district, county office of education, or charter school, if the local educational agency operates an intersession program, as defined, to grant priority access to foster children and homeless youth, as provided. The bill would, notwithstanding any other law, provide that if a foster child or homeless youth will be moving during an intersession period, the pupil's parent, guardian, educational rights holder, or Indian custodian, as defined, in the case of an Indian child, or, if there is no parent, guardian, educational rights holder, or Indian custodian, the unaccompanied homeless youth, as applicable, shall determine which school the pupil attends for the intersession period, if applicable. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Education**Associations:** CWDA Watch**PAL Request:** Approved

AB 391**Name:** Child abuse and neglect: nonmandated reporters.**Author:** Jones-Sawyer (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act establishes procedures for the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect. The act requires certain professionals, including specified health practitioners and social workers, known as mandated reporters, to report known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect to a local law enforcement agency or a county welfare or probation department, as specified. The act authorizes any other person, known as a nonmandated reporter, to report a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to a local law enforcement agency or a county welfare or probation department, as specified. Current law authorizes a nonmandated reporter to make a report anonymously. This bill would require an agency receiving a report from a nonmandated reporter to ask the reporter to provide specified information, including their name, telephone number, and the information that gave rise to the knowledge or reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect. If the reporter refuses to provide their name or telephone number, the bill would require the agency receiving the report to make an effort to determine the basis for the refusal and advise the reporter that the identifying information would remain confidential.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Education**Associations:** CWDA Watch**PAL Request:** Approved**AB 426****Name:** Unlicensed residential foster care facilities: temporary placement management.**Author:** Jackson (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law prohibits an unlicensed community care facility, as defined, from operating in the state, and prohibits a person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation within the state, or state or local public agency, from operating, establishing, managing, conducting, or maintaining a community care facility in this state, without a current, valid community care facility license. Current law authorizes the department to assess an immediate civil penalty in the amount of \$200 per day for a violation of either or both of those prohibitions, as specified. This bill would additionally authorize the department to assess an immediate civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000 for each day of the violation on a person, as defined, who provides residential care to children.

SSA Position: Recommend Oppose**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Foster Care**Associations:** CWDA Oppose

AB 505**Name:** The Office of Youth and Community Restoration.**Author:** Ting (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires the Office of Youth and Community Restoration to have an ombudsperson and authorizes the ombudspersons to, among other things, investigate complaints from youth and access facilities serving youth involved in the juvenile justice system with advanced notice of a minimum of 48 hours to the agency in control of the facility. Current law requires the ombudsperson to publish and provide regular reports to the Legislature regarding data collected concerning, among other things, investigations performed by the ombudsperson. This bill would authorize an ombudsperson to access a facility at any time without prior notice to the operator of the facility. The bill would require the ombudsperson to have access to, review, receive, and make copies of any record of a local agency, including all juvenile facility records at all times, except as otherwise prohibited. The bill would authorize the ombudsperson to meet or communicate privately with any youth, personnel, or volunteer in a juvenile facility and interview any relevant witnesses. The bill would authorize the ombudsperson to interview sworn probation personnel in accordance with applicable federal and state law, local probation department policies, and collective bargaining agreements. The bill would require the ombudsperson to be granted access to youth at all times, and would require the ombudsperson to be able to take notes, audio or video recording, or photographs during the meeting or communication with youth, to the extent not otherwise prohibited by applicable federal or state law. The bill would also require the ombudsperson to include recommendations for improving the juvenile justice system in their regular reports regarding data annually collected and made publicly available on the office's internet website.

SSA Position: Spot Watch**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, Priority**Associations:** CPOC Watch**AB 665****Name:** Minors: consent to mental health services.**Author:** Carrillo (D)**Chaptered:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: Current law, for some purposes, authorizes a minor who is 12 years of age or older to consent to mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis, or to residential shelter services, if the minor is mature enough to participate intelligently in the outpatient services or residential shelter services, as specified, and either the minor would present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to themselves or to others or if the minor is the alleged victim of incest or child abuse. For other purposes, current law authorizes a minor who is 12 years of age or older to consent to mental health treatment or counseling services if the minor is mature enough to participate intelligently in the outpatient services or counseling services. his bill would align the existing laws by removing the

to be made to the local ombudsman or the local law enforcement agency. This bill would delete and reorganize some of those reporting provisions. Under the bill, if the abuse that occurred in a long-term facility was allegedly caused by another resident of the facility with dementia diagnosed by a licensed physician and there was no serious bodily injury, the reporter would be required to submit a written report within 24 hours to the long-term care ombudsman and the local law enforcement agency. Under the bill, in all other instances, immediately or as soon as practically possible, but no longer than 2 hours, the reporter would be required to submit a verbal report to the local law enforcement agency, and to submit a written report within 24 hours to the aforementioned recipients. Under the bill, the time limit for reporting would begin when the mandated reporter observes, obtains knowledge of, or suspects the abuse or neglect.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Children and Family Services, Health Care, Medi-Cal, Mental Health, Public Safety

Associations: CWDA Support (2)

AB 723

Name: Pupil placement: special education: foster children: nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies: school of origin.

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)

Chaptered: 10/13/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires a local educational agency serving a foster child to allow the foster child to remain at the child's school of origin upon the initial detention or placement, any subsequent change in placement, the termination of the court's jurisdiction, or pending resolution of a dispute regarding school of origin placement, as provided. Current law defines "school of origin" as the school that the foster child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the foster child was last enrolled, except as specified. Current law sets forth a method for providing special education and related services to pupils who are individuals with exceptional needs, as defined. Current law permits, under certain circumstances, contracts to be entered into for the provision of those services by nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies, as defined. Existing law authorizes a master contract for special education and related services provided by a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency only if the school or agency has been certified as meeting specified standards. Current law sets forth the certification process and procedures for the nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies that seek certification from the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This bill would, for a foster child who is an individual with exceptional needs, define "school of origin" as also including a placement in a certified nonpublic, nonsectarian school, as provided.

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns

Subject: Children and Family Services, Education, Foster Care

Associations: CPOC Watch

AB 847**Name:** Medi-Cal: pediatric palliative care services.**Author:** Rivas (D)**Chaptered:** 10/13/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Health Care Services to develop a pediatric palliative care benefit as a pilot program to Medi-Cal beneficiaries under 21 years of age, to be implemented only to the extent that any necessary federal approvals are obtained and federal financial participation is available. Current law requires that program to include, among other things, hospice services to individuals whose conditions may result in death, regardless of the estimated length of the individual's remaining period of life. Pursuant to the above-described provisions, the department established the Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC) Waiver in 2009, upon receiving federal approval in December 2008. After the waiver ended on December 31, 2018, the department implemented a plan in 2019 to transition some pediatric palliative care services to the Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, which is available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries under 21 years of age, as specified. This bill, Sophia's Act, would authorize extended eligibility for pediatric hospice services and palliative care services for those individuals who have been determined eligible for those services prior to 21 years of age to after 21 years of age, as specified. To the extent that these provisions would alter the eligibility of individuals for these services, the bill would create a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the department to seek any federal approvals it deems necessary to implement these provisions. The bill would implement these provisions only to the extent that necessary federal approvals are obtained and federal financial participation is available and not otherwise jeopardized. This bill would state the Legislature's intent to investigate future legislation to make pediatric palliative and hospice care more accessible to families. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Health Care, Medi-Cal**Associations:** CWDA Spot Watch**AB 937****Name:** Dependency: family reunification services.**Author:** McKinnor (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge a child to be a dependent of the court under certain circumstances, including when the child suffered, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer, serious physical harm or illness as a result of the failure or inability of their parent or guardian to adequately supervise or protect the child. Current law establishes the grounds for removal of a dependent child from the custody of the child's parents or guardian and generally requires the court to order the

social worker to provide designated child welfare services, including family reunification services, which are to be provided up to 12 months from the date the child entered foster care. Current law authorizes the court-ordered services to be extended up to another 6 months at the 12-month permanency hearing if the court finds that there is a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the physical custody of the parent or guardian within the extended time period, or that reasonable services have not been provided to the parent or guardian, and requires the court to specify the factual basis for its conclusion that there is that substantial probability. Current law similarly authorizes the court-ordered services to be extended up to another 6 months at the 18-month permanency hearing for specified parents if the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child to have the time extended and there is a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the physical custody of the parent or guardian within the extended time period, or that reasonable services have not been provided to the parent or guardian, and requires the court to specify the factual basis for its conclusion that there is that substantial probability. This bill would clarify that the court shall also specify its factual basis for its conclusion that either reasonable services have not been provided to the parent or guardian or, in the case of an Indian child, that active efforts to reunite the child with their family have not been made if the court extends the services on either basis.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 954

Name: Dependency: court-ordered services.

Author: Bryan

Chaptered: 10/9/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes the grounds for removal of a dependent child from the custody of the child's parents or guardian, and requires the court to order the social worker to provide designated child welfare services, including family reunification services, as prescribed. Current law also requires family maintenance services to be provided or arranged for by county welfare department staff in order to maintain a child in their own home, and requires the services to be available without regard to income to specified families, including families in which the child is in the care of a previously noncustodial parent under the supervision of the juvenile court. This bill would require a court to inquire whether a parent or guardian can afford court-ordered services when making reasonable orders for a dependent child. The bill would prohibit a court from declaring at specified review hearings that a parent or guardian is noncompliant with a court-ordered case plan when the court finds that the parent or guardian is unable to pay for a service or that payment for a service would create an undue financial hardship for them, and the social worker did not provide a comparable free service that was accessible and available to them, as specified.

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns

Subject: CalFresh, Children and Family Services, Food, Housing, Juvenile Justice

Associations: CWDA Watch and Engage

AB 1650

Name: Family law proceedings: custody, parentage, and adoption.

Author: Patterson (R)

Chaptered: 10/13/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: This bill, as of January 1, 2025, would, among other things, revise those provisions to allow the superior court jurisdiction regarding dependency and allow judicial determinations to be made for a child up to 21 years of age. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Watch

ACR 16

Name: Needs of opportunity youth.

Author: Fong (D)

Chaptered: 10/13/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would declare that the Legislature recognizes the importance of creating pathways to success for California's opportunity youth and the need to develop a statewide comprehensive plan that will reduce persistent economic inequities endured by California's opportunity youth.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: CalWORKs, Children and Family Services, Education, Foster Care, Health Care

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

SB 60

Name: Social media platforms: controlled substances: order to remove.

Author: Umberg (D)

Chaptered: 10/10/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires a social media platform with 1,000,000 or more discrete monthly users to clearly and conspicuously state whether it has a mechanism for reporting violent posts, as defined, that is available to users and nonusers of the platform. Current law authorizes a person who is the target of a violent post, or reasonably believes the person is the target of a violent post, to seek an order requiring the social media platform to remove the violent post and any related violent post the court determines shall be removed in the interests of justice, as prescribed. This bill would authorize a person to seek an order requiring a social media platform to remove content that includes an offer to transport, import into this state, sell, furnish, administer, or give away a controlled substance in violation of specified law, as prescribed.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Child Care, Children and Family Services

SB 223

Name: Pupil personnel services: child welfare and attendance services.

Author: Menjivar (D)

Chaptered: 9/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Under current law, the services credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services authorizes the holder to perform, at all grade levels, the pupil personnel service approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing as designated on the credential, including, among others, in child welfare and attendance services, as provided. Current law establishes the minimum requirements for the services credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services, which include, among others, completion of a commission-approved program of supervised field experience that includes direct classroom contact, jointly sponsored by a school district and a college or university. This bill would instead require, for a services credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services in the area of child welfare and attendance services, the completion of (1) the above-described college- or university-sponsored supervised field experience requirement or (2) a commission-approved program of professional preparation offered by a local educational agency, as provided.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: CalWORKs, Children and Family Services, Education

Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 291

Name: Pupil rights: recess.

Author: Newman (D)

Chaptered: 10/23/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Education to encourage school districts to provide daily recess periods for elementary school pupils. Current law authorizes the governing board of a school district to adopt reasonable rules and regulations to authorize a teacher to restrict for disciplinary purposes the time a pupil is allowed for recess. This bill would delete the latter provision. The bill would require, commencing with the 2024-25 school year, recess, as defined, that is provided by a public school operated by a school district or county office of education, or that is a charter school, to be at least 30 minutes on regular instructional days and at least 15 minutes on early release days, as provided.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: CalWORKs, Children and Family Services, Education

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 323**Name:** Comprehensive school safety plans: individualized safety plans.**Author:** Portantino (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: Current law provides that school districts and county offices of education are responsible for the overall development of a comprehensive school safety plan for each of its schools operating a kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive. Current law requires the schoolsite council or school safety planning committee, before adopting the plan, to hold a public meeting at the schoolsite in order to allow members of the public the opportunity to express an opinion about the plan. Current law requires the plan to include specified components, including, among other components, disaster procedures, routine and emergency, including adaptations for pupils with disabilities in accordance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This bill would require those disaster procedures to also include adaptations for pupils with disabilities in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and would require the annual evaluation of the comprehensive school safety plan and the annual review of a charter school's school safety plan to also include ensuring that the plan includes appropriate adaptations for pupils with disabilities, as specified. The bill would expressly authorize a school employee, a pupil's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder, or a pupil, after the first evaluation or review for those purposes is conducted, to bring concerns about an individual pupil's ability to access disaster safety procedures described in the comprehensive school safety plan or the school safety plan to the school principal, and would require the school principal, if they determine there is merit to a concern, to direct the schoolsite council, school safety planning committee, or charter school, as applicable, to appropriately modify the comprehensive school safety plan or school safety plan, as applicable, as specified.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Child Care, Education**Associations:** CWDA Watch**SB 407****Name:** Foster care: resource families.**Author:** Wiener (D)**Chaptered:** 9/23/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: Current law generally provides for the placement of foster youth in various placement settings. Current law provides for the implementation of the resource family approval process and defines a resource family as an individual or family who has successfully met both the home environment assessment standards and permanency assessment criteria, as specified, necessary for providing care for a child placed by a public or private child placement agency by court order, or voluntarily placed by a parent or legal guardian. Under current law, the resource family permanency standards include a family evaluation, including, but not limited to, interviews of an applicant, as specified, and a risk

assessment. This bill would require a resource family to demonstrate an ability and willingness to meet the needs of a child, regardless of the child's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, as specified.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Foster Care, Human Rights, Gender Identity/Expression, Sexual Orientation

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 323

Name: Dependent children.

Author: Wahab (D)

Chaptered: 10/10/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge a child to be a dependent of the court under certain circumstances, including when the child suffered, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer, serious physical harm or illness as a result of the failure or inability of their parent or guardian to adequately supervise or protect the child. Current law requires the court to make a determination, throughout various hearings in the juvenile dependency process, including at the 6-month review hearing, the 12-month permanency hearing, and subsequent permanency review hearings, as to whether the return of the child to their parent or legal guardian would create a substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child. Under current law, the failure of the parent or legal guardian to participate regularly and make substantive progress in court-ordered treatment programs is considered prima facie evidence at these hearings that return would be detrimental. This bill would delete these provisions requiring the failure of the parent or legal guardian to participate regularly and make substantive progress in court-ordered treatment programs to be considered prima facie evidence at specified review hearings.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Foster Care, Juvenile Justice

Associations: CWDA Watch w/Concerns and Engage

SB 578

Name: Juvenile court: dependents: removal.

Author: Ashby (D)

Chaptered: 10/9/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge children to be dependents of the court under certain circumstances, including when the child suffered or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer serious physical harm, or a parent fails to provide the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment. Current law establishes the grounds for removal of a dependent child from the custody of the child's parents or guardian. Current law requires the court, at the initial petition hearing,

to examine the child's parents, guardians, Indian custodian, or other persons having relevant knowledge and hear the relevant evidence, and order the release of the child from custody unless a prima facie showing has been made that the child comes within the court's jurisdiction, the court finds that continuance in the parent's or guardian's home is contrary to the child's welfare, and any of a number of circumstances exist. Current law requires the social worker to report to the court on the reasons why the child has been removed from the parent's, guardian's, or Indian custodian's physical custody, the need, if any, for continued detention, and the available services and the referral methods to those services that could facilitate the return of the child to the custody of the child's parents, among other things. This bill would require the social worker's report to also include information regarding the short-term and long-term harms to the child that may result from their removal, including the child's perspective on removal, the existing relationship between the child and members of the household, and the disruption to the child's schooling, social relationships, and physical or emotional health that may result from placement out of the home, and in the case of an Indian child, the child's connection to their tribe, extended family members, and tribal community. The bill would also require the social worker's report to include placement options, including an assessment of the least disruptive alternatives to returning the child to the custody of their parent, guardian, or Indian custodian, and other measures that may be taken to alleviate disruption and minimize the harms of removal.

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 599

Name: Visitation Rights

Author: Caballero (D)

Chaptered: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires the court, for purposes of deciding custody or visitation, to determine the best interests of the child based on certain factors, including the health, safety, and welfare of the child, and the nature and amount of contact with both parents, except as specified. Current law also requires the court to determine, under designated circumstances, whether to require that visitation to be supervised, suspended, limited, or denied. Under current law, if the court finds that a party is staying in a domestic violence shelter or other confidential location, the court is required to design a visitation order to prevent disclosure of the location of the shelter or other confidential location. This bill, among other things, would require the court, in determining whether to require the above-described limitations on visitation, to consider virtual visitation, as defined. The bill would require a court, if it finds that a party is staying at one of the above-described locations due to domestic violence or fear of domestic violence from the other parent, to order in-person visitation only if the court finds that in-person visitation is in the best interest of the child and taking into consideration, among other things, the potential for disclosure of the confidential location.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Child Support Services, Children and Family Services, Domestic Violence

SECTION 1: Chaptered Legislation



Workforce & Benefits Administration (WBA)

CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and Medi-Cal

Of the thirteen bills relating to Workforce and Benefits Administration being tracked by the ACSSA Office of Policy, Strategy, and Innovation that were chaptered in 2023, six pertained to Medi-Cal, three pertained to CalFresh, and four were related to other WBA programs including CalWORKs, General Assistance, and refugee assistance.

The Medi-Cal related bills made administrative changes to the program to simplify a cumbersome enrollment process for low-income older Californians and persons with disabilities who apply for assistance with Medicare Part A premiums, reform the process by which the Department of Health Care Services audits claims made by schools to increase access to school-based health and mental health services by

students, and eliminate obsolete references to earlier programs that were transitioned to Medi-Cal.

Bills related to CalFresh sought to expand hot and prepared foods options available under the program and increase access through improved data collection practices of students enrolled in postsecondary education.

Other chaptered WBA related bills require county social service agencies to post resources available for refugees, expand exempt populations under the CalWORKs program and provide guidance on the sharing of confidential information of General Assistance recipients.

AB 483**Name:** Local educational agency: Medi-Cal billing option.**Author:** Muratsuchi (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: Current law provides that school districts and county offices of education are responsible for the overall development of a comprehensive school safety plan for each of its schools operating a kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive. Current law requires the schoolsite council or school safety planning committee, before adopting the plan, to hold a public meeting at the schoolsite in order to allow members of the public the opportunity to express an opinion about the plan. Current law requires the plan to include specified components, including, among other components, disaster procedures, routine and emergency, including adaptations for pupils with disabilities in accordance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This bill would require those disaster procedures to also include adaptations for pupils with disabilities in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and would require the annual evaluation of the comprehensive school safety plan and the annual review of a charter school's school safety plan to also include ensuring that the plan includes appropriate adaptations for pupils with disabilities, as specified. The bill would expressly authorize a school employee, a pupil's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder, or a pupil, after the first evaluation or review for those purposes is conducted, to bring concerns about an individual pupil's ability to access disaster safety procedures described in the comprehensive school safety plan or the school safety plan to the school principal, and would require the school principal, if they determine there is merit to a concern, to direct the schoolsite council, school safety planning committee, or charter school, as applicable, to appropriately modify the comprehensive school safety plan or school safety plan, as applicable, as specified.

SSA Position: Recommend Support**Subject:** Medi-Cal**AB 614****Name:** Medi-Cal**Author:** Wood (D)**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML PDF](#)

Summary: The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid program provisions. This bill would make a change to an obsolete reference to the former Healthy Families Program, whose health services for children have been transitioned to the Medi-Cal program. The bill would make a change to an obsolete reference to the former Access for Infants and Mothers Program and would revise a related provision to instead refer to the successor Medi-Cal Access Program. The bill would delete, within certain Medi-Cal provisions, obsolete references to a repealed provision relating to nonprofit hospital service plans.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Medi-Cal
Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 712

Name: CalFresh: hot and prepared foods.
Author: Carrillo (D)
Chaptered: 7/27/23
Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would require the State Department of Social Services to seek all available federal waivers and approvals to maximize food choices for CalFresh recipients, including hot and prepared foods ready for immediate consumption.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Medi-Cal
Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 847

Name: Medi-Cal: pediatric palliative care services.
Author: Rivas (D)
Chaptered: 10/13/23
Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Health Care Services to develop a pediatric palliative care benefit as a pilot program to Medi-Cal beneficiaries under 21 years of age, to be implemented only to the extent that any necessary federal approvals are obtained and federal financial participation is available. Current law requires that program to include, among other things, hospice services to individuals whose conditions may result in death, regardless of the estimated length of the individual's remaining period of life. Pursuant to the above-described provisions, the department established the Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC) Waiver in 2009, upon receiving federal approval in December 2008. After the waiver ended on December 31, 2018, the department implemented a plan in 2019 to transition some pediatric palliative care services to the Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, which is available to Medi-Cal beneficiaries under 21 years of age, as specified. This bill, Sophia's Act, would authorize extended eligibility for pediatric hospice services and palliative care services for those individuals who have been determined eligible for those services prior to 21 years of age to after 21 years of age, as specified. To the extent that these provisions would alter the eligibility of individuals for these services, the bill would create a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the department to seek any federal approvals it deems necessary to implement these provisions. The bill would implement these provisions only to the extent that necessary federal approvals are obtained and federal financial participation is available and not otherwise jeopardized. This bill would state the Legislature's intent to investigate future legislation to make pediatric palliative and hospice care more accessible to families. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns

Subject: Children and Family Services, Health Care, Medi-Cal

Associations: CWDA Spot Watch

AB 928

Name: CalFresh Data Dashboard: students.

Author: Rendon (D)

Chaptered: 9/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law sets forth certain requirements and exemptions for students in postsecondary education for purposes of CalFresh eligibility. Current law requires the State Department of Social Services, no later than January 1, 2024, to publish certain data specific to students' receipt of CalFresh benefits on the department's existing CalFresh Data Dashboard, in order to assist in monitoring information about access to CalFresh by students enrolled in an institution of higher education, as defined. Current law requires the department to update the dashboard over time as additional data become available about this population. This bill would instead require the department to update the dashboard on an annual basis and as additional data become available about that population.

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns

Subject: Children and Family Services, Health Care, Medi-Cal

Associations: CWDA Spot Watch

AB 1241

Name: Medi-Cal: telehealth.

Author: Weber D

Chaptered: 9/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Under current law, in-person, face-to-face contact is not required when covered health care services by the Medi-Cal Program are provided by video synchronous interaction, audio-only synchronous interaction, remote patient monitoring, or other permissible virtual communication modalities, when those services and settings meet certain criteria. Current law requires a provider furnishing services through video synchronous interaction or audio-only synchronous interaction, by a date set by the State Department of Health Care Services, no sooner than January 1, 2024, to also either offer those services via in-person contact or arrange for a referral to, and a facilitation of, in-person care, as specified. This bill would instead require, under the above-described circumstance, a provider to maintain and follow protocols to either offer those services via in-person contact or arrange for a referral to, and a facilitation of, in-person care. The bill would specify that the referral and facilitation arrangement would not require a provider to schedule an appointment with a different provider on behalf of a patient.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Medi-Cal

AB 1481**Name:** Medi-Cal: presumptive eligibility.**Author:** Boerner (D)**Chaptered:** 9/30/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current federal law, as a condition of receiving federal Medicaid funds, requires states to provide health care services to specified individuals. Current federal law authorizes states to provide presumptive eligibility to pregnant women or children, and existing state law requires the department to provide presumptive eligibility to pregnant women and children, as specified. This bill would expand the presumptive eligibility for pregnant women to all pregnant people, renaming the program “Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant People” (PE4PP). For a pregnant person covered under PE4PP who applies for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits, if the application is submitted at any time from the date of their presumptive eligibility determination through the last day of the subsequent calendar month, the bill would require the department to ensure the pregnant person is covered under PE4PP until their full-scope Medi-Cal application is approved or denied, as specified. The bill would require the department to require providers participating in the PE4PP program to provide information to pregnant persons enrolled in PE4PP on how to contact the person’s county to expedite the county’s determination of a Medi-Cal application.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Health Care, Medi-Cal, Pregnancy**Associations:** CWDA Support (3)**AB 1457****Name:** Public social services: merit or civil service employee.**Author:** Ortega (D)**Chaptered:** 9/30/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law generally requires the federal and state laws and regulations governing the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or CalFresh in the state) to also govern the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Current law requires the delivery of nutrition benefits under CFAP to be identical to the delivery of CalFresh benefits, to the extent permissible under federal law. Current law generally requires the federal and state laws and regulations governing the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (SSI/SSP) program to also govern the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI). Current law sets forth various provisions relating to the implementation of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program as a covered Medi-Cal benefit. Current law requires that the investigation of allegations of elder and dependent adult abuse under provisions relating to Adult Protective Services (APS), and the case management of elder and dependent adult abuse cases, be performed by county merit systems civil service employees. This bill would add CFAP, CAPI, IHSS, and APS to the above-described list of programs for which any decisions governing eligibility that are made by a county would be made exclusively by a merit or civil service employee of the county.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Adult Protective Services, CalFresh, CalWORKs, IHSS, Medi-Cal

Associations: CWDA Support (2)

SB 311

Name: Medi-Cal: Part A buy-in.

Author: Eggman (D)

Chaptered: 10/10/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Federal law authorizes states to pay for Medicare benefits for specified enrollees pursuant to either a buy-in agreement to directly enroll and pay premiums or a group payer arrangement to pay premiums. This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services to enter into a Medicare Part A buy-in agreement, as defined, for qualified Medicare beneficiaries with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by submitting a state plan amendment. Under the bill, the buy-in agreement would be effective on January 1, 2025, or the date the department communicates to the Department of Finance in writing that systems have been programmed for implementation of these provisions, whichever date is later.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Disabilities, Medi-Cal, Older Adults

Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 462

Name: General assistance.

Author: Wahab D

Chaptered: 7/21/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires each county to provide aid to its indigent residents not supported by other means. These county programs are known as general assistance programs. Current law requires the board of supervisors of every county to, among other things, investigate every application for relief from the funds of the county, to supervise every person receiving that relief, and to keep full and complete records of the investigation, supervision, relief, and rehabilitation. Current law requires those records to be confidential and not be open to examination or inspection, except as specified. This bill would provide that those provisions do not prohibit sharing of confidential information for purposes directly connected with the administration of relief or with the administration of public social services, as defined.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Agency Records, Confidentiality, General Assistance, Personal Identifiable Information

Associations: CWDA Watch w/ Concerns and Engage

SB 465**Name:** Refugees.**Author:** Wahab D**Chaptered:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would require each county human services agency to post a single page on its internet website with a list of resources available for refugees that includes, among other things, public transportation, financial literacy information, and affordable housing and rental assistance programs. By imposing new duties on counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would also require the department to post a single page on its internet website with a list of available state resources available for refugees and a link to the internet website of each county human assistance agency.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Immigration, Refugee Social Services**Associations:** CWDA Watch**SB 521****Name:** CalWORKs: pregnancy or parenting.**Author:** Smallwood-Cuevas D**Chaptered:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Existing law establishes the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which, through a combination of federal, state, and county funds, each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Under the CalWORKs program, as a condition of eligibility for aid, recipients are required to participate in certain welfare-to-work activities, except for specified individuals, including, among others, individuals under 16 years of age and recipients who are pregnant. This bill would add to those reasons the circumstance of the recipient requiring pregnancy- or parenting-related accommodations covered under Title IX, or other specified laws, and not having received adequate accommodations. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** CalWORKs, Pregnancy, Welfare-to-Work**Associations:** CWDA Watch and Engage

SB 628**Name:** State Healthy Food Access Policy.**Author:** Hurtado (D)**Chaptered:** 10/13/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would declare that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to access sufficient affordable and healthy food. The bill would require all relevant state agencies to consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies, regulations, and grant criteria are pertinent to the distribution of sufficient affordable food.

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Food**Associations:** CWDA Watch

SECTION 2: Vetoed Legislation



Government and Community Relations (GCR)

Housing, Homeless, Disaster Preparedness, Human Trafficking, Early Care & Education, Program Integrity Division, Workforce Development Board

While addressing housing shortages and the state-wide homelessness crisis are priorities of the Legislature and Governor Newsom, the Governor vetoed a number of bills intended to alleviate the housing market and programs targeted to specific homeless populations.

As with a large percentage of vetoed bills this session, the Governor noted the State's fiscal challenges as a primary reason for vetoing bills with a cost component. Additionally, the Governor voiced concerns about duplication of efforts for programs targeting certain homeless populations, noting that larger efforts could address these populations' specific needs.

AB 309

Name: The Social Housing Act.

Author: Lee (D)

Vetoed: 10/7/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would enact the Social Housing Act and would create, in the Department of General Services, the Social Housing Program, the mission of which would be to ensure that qualified social housing developments are produced on leased state property to help address the housing crisis, as specified. The bill would authorize the program to identify and develop up to 3 qualified social housing projects, as specified, with the intent to use the results to inform public policy related to developing an independent public entity to develop statewide qualified social housing. The bill would require the program to solicit bids to develop qualified social housing units, and prioritize bids that demonstrate long-term revenue neutrality or a cost rent model, as those terms are defined. The bill would require the program to employ 2 different leasing models, the rental model and the ownership model, as specified, in creating social housing. The bill would prohibit a city or county from denying a social housing development authorized under the program. The bill would authorize a city or county to propose objective design review standards, as specified, and authorize a city or county to propose modifications to mitigate any specific, adverse impacts on public health or safety, as specified.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 309 without my signature. This bill would create the Social Housing Program in the Department of General Services (DGS). The program would identify and produce three social housing projects on excess state-owned property through development or acquisition. This bill infringes on state sovereignty over state-owned real property by establishing a new process for local government review of state projects authorized under the bill and could potentially cost the state several hundred million dollars in capital expenditures. State-owned sites identified as suitable for housing development already are being developed as affordable housing through the State Excess Sites program. This program, instituted through Executive Order (EO) N-06-19 and further codified through AB 2233 (Quirk-Silva, Chapter 438, Statutes of 2022) and SB 561 (Dodd, Chapter 446, Statutes of 2022), has already awarded state land for 17 residential or mixed-use projects with significant affordable housing components. While I appreciate the author's commitment to build more affordable housing in the state, this bill creates new additional cost pressures and must be considered in the annual budget in the context of all state funding priorities. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when

considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Housing

AB 589

Name: Homeless youth: transitional housing.

Author: Boerner (D)

Vetoed: 10/7/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes homeless youth emergency service pilot projects in the City of Los Angeles and the City and County of San Francisco providing services to homeless minors, including food and access to an overnight shelter and counseling to address immediate emotional crises or problems. Current law also requires similar programs to be established in the Counties of San Diego and Santa Clara, and all of these programs to be operated by an agency in accordance with a grant award agreement with the Office of Emergency Services. This bill, until January 1, 2027, and upon appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes, would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish the Unicorn Homes Transitional Housing for Homeless LGBTQ+ Youth Program, to be administered by local community-based organizations that provide a majority of its services to the LGBTQ+ community.

Governor's Message:

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 589 without my signature. This bill, until January 1, 2027 and upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to establish the Unicorn Homes Transitional Housing for Homeless LGBTQ+ Youth Program (Unicorn Program) as a pilot to be administered by local community based organizations in Sacramento and San Diego Counties. While I appreciate the author's commitment to providing housing for homeless LGBTQ+ youth, AB 589 creates an unfunded grant program that must be considered in the annual budget in the context of all state funding priorities. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Homeless, Housing

Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 657**Name:** Homelessness services staff training.**Author:** Caballero (D)**Vetoed:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires each area agency on aging to maintain a professional staff that is supplemented by volunteers, governed by a board of directors or elected officials, and whose activities are reviewed by an advisory council consisting primarily of older individuals from the community. Current law requires the Governor to create the Interagency Council on Homelessness for specified purposes, including to create partnerships among various entities, like participants in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care program, and to identify mainstream resources, benefits, and services that can be accessed to prevent and end homelessness in California. This bill would require the council to coordinate with the California Department of Aging, the California continuums of care, and the area agencies on aging to convene a working group no later than March 1, 2024, to develop recommendations on best practices for assisting older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness and for training those who assist older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness. The bill would require the working group to develop a training for those who assist older adults with housing needs to help those individuals access resources to prevent and overcome homelessness, as specified, no later than March 1, 2025. The bill would require the working group, on or before March 1, 2025, to report to specified committees of the Legislature on their recommendations.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 657 without my signature. This bill would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Council) to coordinate with the Department of Aging, Continuums of Care, and Area Agencies on Aging to convene a working group to develop best practices and training for those assisting older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness. While I agree with the underlying intent of the bill, some of its provisions are duplicative of the Council's current efforts with member Departments, including the Department of Aging, to establish best practices and provide support for this population. These efforts include the State's recent partnership with the federal government through the ALL INside Initiative, which includes a specific focus on supporting older adults. In addition, the State has also produced the Master Plan for Aging, a comprehensive 10-year blueprint that outlines how the State will address housing solutions for older adults by 2030, including efforts for enriching services and housing for older Californians. I look forward to working with the author to build on these efforts thoughtfully, but at this time, legislation is not necessary. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Area Agency on Aging, Homeless**Associations:** CWDA Watch and Refer

SB 773**Name:** CalWORKs: homeless assistance.**Author:** Glazer (D)**Vetoed:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals. Current law provides for homeless assistance to a homeless family seeking shelter when the family is eligible for CalWORKs aid, including a nonrecurring special needs benefit of \$85 a day to families of up to 4 members for the costs of temporary shelter, and a nonrecurring special needs benefit for permanent housing assistance to pay for last month's rent and security deposits if these payments are conditions of securing a residence, or to pay for up to 2 months of rent arrearages, if these payments are a reasonable condition of preventing eviction. Current law prohibits the last month's rent or monthly arrearage portion of the payment from exceeding 80% of the family's total monthly household income without the value of CalFresh benefits or special needs benefit for a family of that size, and requires it be made to families that have found permanent housing costing no more than 80% of the family's total monthly household income without the value of CalFresh benefits or special needs benefit for a family of that size. This bill, beginning January 1, 2025, or when specified automation processes are available, and for purposes of determining the family's total monthly household income for the permanent housing assistance, would require the county human services agency to include any amount that is regularly received from other government and nonprofit housing and homeless subsidy programs and any regularly received private support intended or designed to help the family with housing. The bill, beginning January 1, 2025, or when specified automation processes are available, upon application for temporary or permanent homeless assistance, would require the county to refer the assistance unit to any other homeless assistance services provided under the CalWORKs program and would authorize the county to give priority to the assistance unit for those services.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 773 without my signature. This bill would require counties to consider an expanded definition of income for purposes of calculating total monthly household income for CalWORKs Permanent Homeless Assistance (HA) Program eligibility. The California Department of Social Services (COSS) would be required to collect statewide data regarding HA and convene a statewide stakeholder advisory group. I appreciate the author's intent to get more people at risk of homelessness into permanent housing. My Administration has made significant investments to combat homelessness and provide housing supports. However, this bill would result in an ongoing annual fiscal impact to the state of more than a million dollars a year. These costs must be considered alongside other budgetary priorities as part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through

balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: CalWORKs, Homeless, Housing

Associations: CWDA Watch and Engage

SECTION 2: Vetoed Legislation



Adult & Aging Services (AAS)

Adult Protective Services (APS), Area Agency on Aging (AAA), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), People with Disabilities, Public Administrator/Public Guardian-Conservator, and Veterans Services

Just one bill being tracked by the ACSSA Office of Policy, Strategy, and Innovation related to Adult & Aging Services was vetoed by the Governor in 2023. This bill, SB 657, would have required coordination between several state agencies to convene a working group to develop best practices for assisting older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness.

In his message to the members of the California State Senate, the Governor stated the bill would duplicate efforts of existing activities.

SB 657**Name:** Homelessness services staff training.**Author:** Caballero D**Vetoed:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires each area agency on aging to maintain a professional staff that is supplemented by volunteers, governed by a board of directors or elected officials, and whose activities are reviewed by an advisory council consisting primarily of older individuals from the community. Current law requires the Governor to create the Interagency Council on Homelessness for specified purposes, including to create partnerships among various entities, like participants in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care program, and to identify mainstream resources, benefits, and services that can be accessed to prevent and end homelessness in California. This bill would require the council to coordinate with the California Department of Aging, the California continuums of care, and the area agencies on aging to convene a working group no later than March 1, 2024, to develop recommendations on best practices for assisting older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness and for training those who assist older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness. The bill would require the working group to develop a training for those who assist older adults with housing needs to help those individuals access resources to prevent and overcome homelessness, as specified, no later than March 1, 2025. The bill would require the working group, on or before March 1, 2025, to report to specified committees of the Legislature on their recommendations.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 657 without my signature. This bill would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Council) to coordinate with the Department of Aging, Continuums of Care, and Area Agencies on Aging to convene a working group to develop best practices and training for those assisting older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness. While I agree with the underlying intent of the bill, some of its provisions are duplicative of the Council's current efforts with member Departments, including the Department of Aging, to establish best practices and provide support for this population. These efforts include the State's recent partnership with the federal government through the ALL INside Initiative, which includes a specific focus on supporting older adults. In addition, the State has also produced the Master Plan for Aging, a comprehensive 10-year blueprint that outlines how the State will address housing solutions for older adults by 2030, including efforts for enriching services and housing for older Californians. I look forward to working with the author to build on these efforts thoughtfully, but at this time, legislation is not necessary. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Area Agency on Aging, Homeless**Associations:** CWDA Watch and Refer

SECTION 2: Vetoed Legislation



Children & Family Services (CFS)

Adoptions, Dependency Investigations, Emergency Response & Child Abuse Hotline, Family Maintenance, Permanent Youth Connections & Legal Guardianships, Resource Families & Placement Services

In partnership with the Legislature, the Governor addressed the cost of foster care and securing funds to assist children/youths in care and reuniting them with their families. The Governor vetoed several bills advocating to increase financial support to help foster youth transition to self-sufficiency.

As noted, the Governor identified the fiscal challenges due to a shortfall of more than \$30 billion in the State budget as his reason to veto bills.

The Governor concluded counties should be permitted to use other supplemental payments offered to children/youths for their care. Therefore, requesting additional funds from the state General Fund will need to offset the cost, which was not contemplated as part of the budget process.

AB 20

Name: Postadoption contact agreements: reinstatement of parental rights.

Author: Gipson (D)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Existing law provides that a child may be adjudged to be a dependent of the juvenile court because of abuse or neglect. Existing law requires the court to review the status of certain dependent children no less frequently than once every 6 months and requires a supplemental report to be filed as part of that review. Existing law requires, when the report is regarding a child for whom the court has ordered parental rights terminated and who has been ordered placed for adoption, or, for an Indian child for whom parental rights are not being terminated and a tribal customary adoption is being considered, the report to include, among other things, a description of whether the final adoption order should include provisions for postadoptive sibling contact. This bill would instead require the report to include a description, if applicable, of the status of the postadoptive sibling agreement. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 20 without my signature. This bill would expand the circumstances in which a child or a nonminor dependent may petition the juvenile dependency court for reinstatement of parental rights and revise provisions of law pertaining to post-adoption sibling contact. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns

Subject: Children and Family Services

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 273

Name: Foster care: missing children and nonminor dependents.

Author: Ramos (D)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law generally provides for the placement of foster youth in various placement settings and governs the provision of child welfare services, as specified. Current

law requires county child welfare agencies and probation departments to develop and implement specific protocols to expeditiously locate any child or nonminor dependent missing from foster care, including, but not limited to, the timeframe for reporting missing youth and the individuals or entities entitled to notice that a youth is missing, and requires the social worker or probation officer to determine the primary factors that contributed to the child or nonminor dependent running away or otherwise being absent from care, among other things. This bill, the Luke Madrigal Act, would, among other things, additionally require the social worker or probation officer, when they receive information that a child receiving child welfare services is absent from foster care to, among other things, engage in ongoing and intensive due diligence efforts, as defined, to locate, place, and stabilize the child, request that the juvenile court schedule a hearing to review the placement and the ongoing and intensive due diligence efforts to locate and return the child, notify specified individuals whose whereabouts are known about the hearing, and prepare, submit, and serve a report at the hearing and any subsequent hearings describing their ongoing and intensive due diligence efforts to locate, place, and stabilize the child. The bill would require the court to consider the safety of the child receiving child welfare services who is absent from foster care to determine the extent of the activities and compliance of the county with the case plan in making ongoing and intensive due diligence efforts to locate and return the child to a safe placement, and to continue to periodically review their case at least every 30 calendar days, as specified. The bill would define “absent from foster care” to mean when the whereabouts of a child receiving child welfare services is unknown to the county child welfare agency or probation department or when the county child welfare agency or probation department has located the child receiving child welfare services in a location not approved by the court that may pose a risk to the child. The bill would also define “child receiving child welfare services” to include a child or nonminor dependent placed in a specified foster care placement or in the home of an emergency caregiver, and dependents, nonminor dependents, wards, and minors who have been taken into temporary custody pursuant to specified provisions and who are in foster care. By increasing the duties of county child welfare agencies and probation departments, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

Governor’s Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 273 without my signature. This bill would establish additional requirements for social workers, probation officers, and juvenile courts when a child or non-minor dependent (NMD) is missing from foster care, including immediate notification requirements, hearing timelines, and due diligence reporting deadlines. Locating missing children in foster care is a time-sensitive and critical undertaking for the safety and well-being of the child. More can always be done to protect this vulnerable population, which is why I am directing the California Department of Social Services (COSS) to work with county partners to assess existing protocols and identify any needed improvements. With that information, COSS will work with the author and stakeholders to inform additional guidance, training, or recommend statutory changes to protect all foster youth, especially tribal youth. This bill, however, would result in estimated ongoing costs of \$10 million

General Fund to support the administrative workload for counties, automation costs, and additional workload for the courts, funding not contemplated in the annual budget. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 448

Name: Juveniles: relative placement: family finding.

Author: Carrillo (D)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires a county social worker to investigate the circumstances of each child taken into temporary custody by a peace officer under specified circumstances. Current law requires the social worker to conduct an investigation, within 30 days of the child's removal, to identify and locate adult relatives of the child, as specified, and to provide them with a notification that the child has been removed from the custody of the child's parents, guardians, or Indian custodian, and an explanation of the various options to participate in the care and placement of the child. This bill would require the social worker to conduct the investigation to identify and locate adult relatives, immediately, and no later than 30 days, after the child has been taken into temporary custody.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 448 without my signature. This bill would require a social worker to conduct a family-finding investigation to identify and locate adult relatives within 30 days after a child has been taken into temporary custody and would make changes to reporting and documentation requirements for social workers and probation officers. My Administration recognizes the value of keeping children connected to their biological and extended families. Children placed with family members have greater placement stability, fewer emotional and behavioral problems, and more connection to their social-cultural communities. Existing law already requires that, if a child is removed from their home, the social worker or probation officer must, within 30 days, investigate to identify adult relatives of the child. Last year's Budget Act allocated \$150 million General Fund for the Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement, and Support Program, which supports culturally responsive,

family-centered, and trauma-informed family-finding and engagement services that focus on maintaining permanent connections for foster children with their family members. The new documentation requirements in this bill would result in ongoing. General Fund costs of over \$6 million to support the increased administrative workload for county child welfare agencies and county probation departments. Though this policy has merit, its costs must be considered as part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch with Concerns

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice

Associations: CWDA Watch with Concerns and Engage

AB 524

Name: Discrimination: family caregiver status.

Author: Wicks (D)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer, among other things, to refuse to hire or employ a person because of various personal characteristics, conditions, or traits. This bill would prohibit employment discrimination on account of family caregiver status, as defined, and would recognize the opportunity to seek, obtain, and hold employment without discrimination because of family caregiver status as a civil right, as specified. This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 12926 of the Government Code proposed by SB 403 to be operative only if this bill and SB 403 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 524 without my signature. This bill would add "family caregiver status" as a characteristic protected under the Fair Employment and Housing Act's employment provisions. During my tenure as Governor I have consistently advanced policies to help parents and families, including expanding paid family leave and increasing the state's investment in childcare. While I appreciate the intent of this bill, I am concerned about the large burden it will place on employers, particularly small businesses, especially given the ambiguous nature of the language. Although the bill does not require employers to provide "special accommodations" based on "family caregiver status," it is not clear what types of acts would constitute unlawful discrimination and what types of acts would be

lawful denials of "special accommodations." Given this ambiguity, this bill would be difficult to implement and lead to costly litigation for employers in California. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Support

Subject: Adult Protective Services, Child Care, Human Rights, IHSS

PAL Request: Approved

AB 589

Name: Homeless youth: transitional housing.

Author: Boerner (D)

Vetoed: 10/7/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes homeless youth emergency service pilot projects in the City of Los Angeles and the City and County of San Francisco providing services to homeless minors, including food and access to an overnight shelter and counseling to address immediate emotional crises or problems. Current law also requires similar programs to be established in the Counties of San Diego and Santa Clara, and all of these programs to be operated by an agency in accordance with a grant award agreement with the Office of Emergency Services. This bill, until January 1, 2027, and upon appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes, would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish the Unicorn Homes Transitional Housing for Homeless LGBTQ+ Youth Program, to be administered by local community-based organizations that provide a majority of its services to the LGBTQ+ community.

Governor's Message:

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 589 without my signature. This bill, until January 1, 2027 and upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to establish the Unicorn Homes Transitional Housing for Homeless LGBTQ+ Youth Program (Unicorn Program) as a pilot to be administered by local community based organizations in Sacramento and San Diego Counties. While I appreciate the author's commitment to providing housing for homeless LGBTQ+ youth, AB 589 creates an unfunded grant program that must be considered in the annual budget in the context of all state funding priorities. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, Pregnancy**Associations:** CWDA Watch

AB 1512

Name: Foster youth.**Author:** Weber (D)**Vetoed:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which is permitted to adjudge certain children to be a ward or a dependent of the court under certain circumstances, and authorizes the juvenile court to retain jurisdiction over those persons until they attain 21 years of age. Current law authorizes nonminors who have not yet attained 21 years of age and who exited foster care at or after the age of majority to petition the court to resume dependency jurisdiction or to assume transition jurisdiction over the nonminor. Under current law, the county welfare department is required to submit reports at the first regularly scheduled review hearing after a dependent child has attained 16 years of age, at the last regularly scheduled review hearing before a dependent child attains 18 years of age, and at every regularly scheduled review hearing thereafter, verifying that specified information, documents, and services have been provided to the child or nonminor. This bill would require certain additional verifications to be included in those reports, including, among other things, verification that specified information has been included in the child's or nonminor's case plan.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 867 without my signature. This bill authorizes a nonminor dependent to remain in extended foster care beyond the age of 21 until the county has provided the youth with the documents, information, and services needed for their transition. While I appreciate the author's work to support foster youth in successfully transitioning into adulthood, this bill will likely cost millions of dollars and must be considered in the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Children and Family Services, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, Transition Aged Youth**Associations:** CWDA Support 3

AB 1112

Name: Foster youth.

Author: McKinnor (D)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires, when a child is living with a parent who receives the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) or the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (Kin-GAP) benefits, or the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Program (ARC) payments, that the rate paid to the foster care provider on behalf of the parent include an additional amount, known as an infant supplement, for the care and supervision of the child. Current law makes a pregnant minor or nonminor dependent eligible for the infant supplement, referred to in this instance as an expectant parent benefit, for the 3-month period immediately prior to the month the birth is anticipated. This bill would expand eligibility for the expectant parent benefit to include minors and nonminor dependents who are under the dependency jurisdiction of the juvenile court and who would be eligible to have foster care benefits paid on their behalf but for the minor or nonminor dependent not residing in an approved placement. The bill would require the department to develop and implement automated payments for these purposes, as specified. Because counties would administer these extended benefits, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1112 without my signature. This bill would require counties to expand eligibility for the foster youth clothing allowance benefit and the expectant parent benefit to include foster youth who do not reside in an approved placement. I share the author's commitment to ensure that foster youth receive the benefits and support services they need. However, the foster care system works to ensure that youth are placed in a safe, stable, and homelike environment. Without an approved placement, foster youth are not eligible to receive foster care payments. As written, this bill could perpetuate foster youth remaining in a placement that is not approved or the safest option for them. Further, because foster care was realigned to counties, the state General Fund would be responsible for offsetting any new county costs for implementation, and such costs should be considered in the context of the broader budget. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Homeless. Housing, Transition Aged Youth

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 1512

Name: Foster care payments.

Author: Bryan (D)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Existing law provides for the out-of-home placement, including foster care placement, of children who are unable to remain in the custody and care of their parents. Existing law, the federal Social Security Act, provides for benefits for eligible beneficiaries, including survivorship and disability benefits and supplemental security income (SSI) benefits for, among others, blind and disabled children. Existing law requires every youth who is in foster care and nearing emancipation to be screened by the county for potential eligibility for federal Supplemental Security Income and requires that screening to occur when the foster youth is at least 16 years and 6 months of age and not older than 17 years and 6 months of age. This bill, among other things, would require a placing agency to act in accordance with specified guidelines and pursuant to certain requirements when acting as the representative payee or in any other fiduciary capacity for a child or youth, including, among other requirements, ensuring that the child's benefits are not used to pay for, or to reimburse, the placing agency for any costs of the child's care and supervision, as defined. The bill would make these requirements operative January 1, 2024, or 30 days after the department issues the necessary all-county letters and informing materials to county placing agencies, whichever is later. By increasing county duties with respect to foster youth, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1512 without my signature. This bill would require counties to take additional actions relating to foster youth eligibility for all federal Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits and would prohibit using a child's benefits to pay for any costs of the child's care. I share the author's commitment to ensure that foster youth receive the benefits and support services they need. However, this bill creates implementation challenges that should be considered as part of the annual budget process. Both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and foster care benefits are intended to provide for the daily care and supervision of youth, including costs for housing and food. If counties are not permitted to use SSI to cover the cost of providing care to foster youth, the General Fund will need to offset those costs. This was not contemplated as part of the budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on

by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care, SSI/SSP, Transition Aged Youth, Veterans

Associations: CWDA Watch

SECTION 2: Vetoed Legislation



Workforce & Benefits Administration (WBA)

CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and Medi-Cal

The ten bills relating to Workforce and Benefits Administration being tracked by the ACSSA Office of Policy, Strategy, and Innovation that were vetoed in 2023 ranged in topics from social determinants of health screening to the expansion of programs like CAPI and diaper distribution. For five of the ten bills, cost was cited as the Governor's primary reason for vetoing the proposed legislation.

Duplication of existing efforts was cited as a reason for the Governor's decision to veto two of the bills. The remaining three bills were determined by the Governor to be "unnecessary", "would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to pursue a series of federal approvals that are not currently allowable under federal guidance", and were considered an issue of patient safety.

AB 85

Name: Social determinants of health: screening and outreach.

Author: Weber (D)

Vetoed: 10/7/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would require a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, to include coverage for screenings for social determinants of health, as defined. The bill would require providers to use specified tools or protocols when documenting patient responses to questions asked in these screenings. The bill would require a health care service plan or health insurer to provide physicians who provide primary care services with adequate access to community health workers, peer support specialists, lay health workers, community health representatives, or social workers in counties where the health care service plan or health insurer has enrollees or insureds, as specified. The bill would authorize the respective departments to adopt guidance to implement its provisions. Because a violation of the bill's requirements by a health care service plan would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 85 without my signature. This bill would require health plans to provide coverage and reimbursement to health care providers for social determinants of health screenings, beginning January 1, 2027. The bill would also require the Department of Health Care Access and Information to convene a working group to inform policies on social determinants of health and to submit a report to the Legislature with findings and recommendations by January 1, 2026. My Administration has made significant investments in policies that contemplate and improve social determinants of health, such as housing, social services, community engagement, economic development, and public education. While I support the overall goal of this proposal, it is duplicative of existing efforts, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screenings and the work the Department of Health Care Services is doing through California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM). Further this bill may be premature; a standardized social determinants of health screening tool does not yet exist, though there are federal efforts ongoing. Our state policy should align with these national efforts to avoid conflicting policies. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Equity, Health Care

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 372**Name:** CalWORKs: eligibility: income exclusions.**Author:** Nguyen (D)**Vetoed:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Under existing law, certain types of payments received by recipients of aid under the CalWORKs program, including income from a college work-study program, as specified, are exempt from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility and aid amount. This bill would, commencing January 1, 2025, or on the date that the State Department of Social Services notifies the Legislature that the California Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the necessary automation to implement this change, additionally exempt income up to 200% of the federal poverty level that is received by an apprentice or preapprentice for performing work as part of a specified apprenticeship program or preapprenticeship program from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or calculating grant amounts under the CalWORKs program.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 372 without my signature. This bill would exempt income up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) that is received from an apprenticeship, or a pre-apprenticeship program approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards for purposes of determining California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) eligibility. I appreciate the author's intent to support low-income individuals participating in apprenticeship programs. However, this bill would result in ongoing costs of over \$25 million annually, which should be considered as a part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** CalWORKs**Associations:** CWDA Watch

AB 576

Name: Medi-Cal: reimbursement for abortion.

Author: Weber (D)

Vetoed: 10/7/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would require the State Department of Health Care Services, by March 1, 2024, to review and update Medi-Cal coverage policies for medication abortion to align with current evidence-based clinical guidelines. After the initial review, the bill would require the department to update its Medi-Cal coverage policies for medication abortion as needed to align with evidence-based clinical guidelines. The bill would require the department to allow flexibility for providers to exercise their clinical judgment when services are performed in a manner that aligns with one or more evidence-based clinical guidelines.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 57 6 without my signature. This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to update Medi-Cal coverage for medication abortion to align with evidence-based clinical guidelines by March 1, 2024. This bill is well intentioned, but unnecessary. In July 2023, DHCS updated its medication abortion policies for Medi-Cal to reflect current evidence-based clinical guidelines to reimburse providers for care through 77 gestational days. This aligns with the goal of AB 57 6 and the priority of this Administration to ensure that abortion care is safe, legal, and accessible. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Medi-Cal, Pregnancy

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 576

AB 719

Name: Medi-Cal; nonmedical and nonemergency medical transportation.

Author: Boerner (D)

Vetoed: 10/7/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Would require the State Department of Health Care Services to require Medi-Cal managed care plans that are contracted to provide nonmedical transportation or nonemergency medical transportation to contract with public paratransit service operators who are enrolled Medi-Cal providers for the purpose of establishing reimbursement rates for nonmedical and nonemergency medical transportation trips provided by a public paratransit service operator. The bill would require the rates reimbursed by the managed care plan to the public paratransit service operator to be based on the department's fee-for-service rates for nonmedical and nonemergency medical transportation service, as specified. The bill would condition implementation of these provisions on receipt of any necessary federal approvals and the availability of federal financial participation.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 719 without my signature. This bill would require Medi-Cal managed care plans that provide nonemergency or nonmedical transportation to contract with public paratransit service operators for the purpose of establishing reimbursement rates, if federal approvals are obtained. I support efforts to encourage more public paratransit service operators to enroll as nonmedical transportation providers in Medi-Cal, which is permitted under existing law. It would be beneficial to have more options for nonmedical transportation in the Medi-Cal system. This bill takes a different approach, however, requiring the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to pursue a series of federal approvals that are not currently allowable under federal guidance. It would not be prudent to use state resources for this purpose. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Medi-Cal

AB 576

AB 843

Name: Electronic benefits transfer system.

Author: Carrillo (D)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law provides for the establishment of a statewide electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system, administered by the State Department of Social Services, for the purpose of providing financial and food assistance benefits. Current law requires the

department to establish a protocol for recipients to report electronic theft of cash benefits that, among other things, ensures the prompt replacement of benefits. Current law provides that a recipient shall not incur any loss of cash benefits that are taken by an unauthorized withdrawal, removal, or use of benefits that does not occur by the use of a physical EBT card issued to the recipient or authorized third party, as specified, and requires the prompt replacement of those cash benefits. Current regulations also require food benefits that are stolen in this manner to be replaced. This bill would instead prohibit a recipient from incurring any loss of electronic benefits stolen in that manner, thereby codifying the existing regulation described above. The bill would require the protocol described above to be integrated and unified to ensure uniform consistent procedures and outcomes across the state and benefit programs to reduce program complexity and administrative delay for counties and recipients.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 843 without my signature. This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to promptly reimburse any benefits issued via the electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system when electronically stolen or lost, including cash and food benefits. I appreciate the author's desire to remedy lost EBT cards, as these supports are important resources for the people that receive them. As such, CDSS has been working with counties since 2021 to implement policies to replace electronically stolen CalFresh benefits, and the department has taken several measures to prevent theft in the future. CDSS partners with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to conduct investigations against EBT fraud, blocks early morning and out-of-state ATM withdrawals unless requested, and provides client educational materials informing of the risks of electronic theft and prevention measures. Further, CDSS is launching the ebtEDGE mobile app this year, so cardholders can freeze their card, reset their PIN, and request a new card easily, and additionally will be replacing EBT cards with Chip EMV /Tap cards beginning May 2024. This bill, however, would create a new mandate for CDSS to reimburse a wider scope of benefits beyond CalFresh, resulting in significant General Fund costs in the tens of millions annually that are not included in the state's budget. Additionally, this bill may create a state-reimbursable mandate for county welfare departments because it requires a higher level of service. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely,
Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** CalFresh, CalWORKs, EBT**Associations:** CWDA Watch

AB 1015**Name:** Diaper and Wipe Distribution Program.**Author:** Carrillo (D)**Vetoed:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: The State Department of Social Services has administratively created the Diaper Bank Program, through funding from the Budget Act of 2021, to allocate grants to specified food banks and other regional entities, with the aim of providing diapers to low-income families with infants or toddlers. This bill would require the department to establish and administer the Diaper and Wipe Distribution Program for low-income families with infants or toddlers. The bill would authorize the department to determine the method of distributing program funds, and would require the department to conduct outreach to, and consider, eligible entities for participation in the program, as specified.

Governor's Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1015 without my signature. This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to administer an expanded Diaper and Wipe Distribution Program in all 58 counties. The current diaper bank effort was established via the Budget Act of 2021, serving twenty counties throughout California and distributing over one-hundred million diapers to over one million low-income households since its inception. The same budget also exempted diapers from sales tax. While I appreciate the author's desire to provide additional assistance, an expanded effort should similarly be considered and funded as part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** CalWORKs, Poverty**AB 1085****Name:** Medi-Cal: housing support services.**Author:** Maienschein (D)**Vetoed:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law, subject to implementation of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative, authorizes a Medi-Cal managed care plan to elect to cover community supports approved by the department as cost effective and medically appropriate in a comprehensive risk contract that are in lieu of applicable Medi-Cal state plan services. Under current law, community supports that the department is authorized to approve include, among other things, housing transition navigation services

housing deposits, and housing tenancy and sustaining services. Existing law, subject to an appropriation, requires the department to complete an independent analysis to determine whether network adequacy exists to obtain federal approval for a covered Medi-Cal benefit that provides housing support services. Current law requires that the analysis take into consideration specified information, including the number of providers in relation to each region's or county's number of people experiencing homelessness. Current law requires the department to report the outcomes of the analysis to the Legislature by January 1, 2024. This bill would delete the requirement for the department to complete that analysis, and instead would make housing support services for specified populations a covered Medi-Cal benefit when the department has begun a specified evaluation required under the CalAIM Waiver Special Terms and Conditions, and the Legislature has made an appropriation for purposes of the housing support services. The bill would require the department to seek federal approval for the housing support services benefit, as specified. Under the bill, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, a Medi-Cal beneficiary would be eligible for those services if they either experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Under the bill, the services would include housing transition and navigation services, housing deposits, and housing tenancy and sustaining services, as defined.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1085 without my signature. This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish a Medi-Cal benefit to cover housing support services for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, subject to an appropriation and federal approval. My Administration has made significant investments to combat homelessness and provide housing supports. While I appreciate and share the author's goal to support those who are experiencing homelessness, new Medi-Cal benefits must be considered as part of the annual budget process. For example, the 2023 Budget Act establishes coverage for CalAIM transitional rent, beginning in 2024-25, allowing for up to six months of rent or temporary housing for vulnerable Californians, including those who are or are at risk of becoming homeless. DHCS estimates additional annual costs to the Medi-Cal program in the range \$18.3 million to \$40.4 million General Fund to implement this bill. These costs must be considered alongside other budgetary priorities. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch**Subject:** Medi-Cal**Associations:** CWDA Watch**PAL Request:** Submitted by HCSA, Approved

AB 1202

Name: Medi-Cal: health care services data: children and pregnant or postpartum persons.

Author: Lackey (R)

Vetoed: 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law establishes, until January 1, 2026, certain time or distance and appointment time standards for specified Medi-Cal managed care covered services, consistent with federal regulations relating to network adequacy standards, to ensure that those services are available and accessible to enrollees of Medi-Cal managed care plans in a timely manner, as specified. Current law sets forth various limits on the number of miles or minutes from the enrollee's place of residence, depending on the type of service or specialty and, in some cases, on the county. This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services, no later than January 1, 2025, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature that includes certain information, including an analysis of the adequacy of each Medi-Cal managed care plan's network for pediatric primary care, including the number and geographic distribution of providers and the plan's compliance with the above-described time or distance and appointment time standards.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1202 without my signature. This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to prepare a public report including information on each Medi-Cal managed care plan's network adequacy of pediatric primary care, data on beneficiaries, and reporting on DHCS' efforts to improve access. I am a proponent of transparency; however, this bill's data collection and reporting requirements are largely duplicative of existing efforts. DHCS currently publicly reports on managed care and fee for service adequacy. Each year, DHCS also publishes a Health Disparities Report. Further, DHCS is currently developing the CalAIM dashboard, which will include additional data that aligns with what this bill calls for. The existing data that is available should be evaluated and leveraged before adding new administrative requirements. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Health Care, Housing, Medi-Cal

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 1437**Name:** Medi-Cal: serious mental illness.**Author:** Irwin (D)**Vetoed:** 10/8/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law sets forth a schedule of benefits under the Medi-Cal program, including specialty and nonspecialty mental health services through different delivery systems, in certain cases subject to utilization controls, such as prior authorization. Under current law, prior authorization is approval of a specified service in advance of the rendering of that service based upon a determination of medical necessity. Current law sets forth various provisions relating to processing, or appealing the decision of, treatment authorization requests, and provisions relating to certain services requiring or not requiring a treatment authorization request. After a determination of cost benefit, current law requires the Director of Health Care Services to modify or eliminate the requirement of prior authorization as a control for treatment, supplies, or equipment that costs less than \$100, except for prescribed drugs, as specified. Under this bill, a prescription refill for a drug for serious mental illness would automatically be approved for a period of 365 days after the initial prescription is dispensed. The bill would condition the above-described provisions on the prescription being for a person 18 years of age or over, and on the person not being within the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as specified.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1437 without my signature. This bill would require the Medi-Cal program to automatically approve any prescription refill for serious mental illness (SMI) for a period of 365 days after the initial prescription is dispensed for a beneficiary 18 years or older. I appreciate the author's intent to increase Medi-Cal beneficiaries' access and adherence to SMI drugs. However, this approach does not address the underlying obstacles with medication adherence and would remove clinical safeguards. Currently most medications used for an SMI are covered without prior authorization, and if prior authorization is needed, DHCS provides a response within 24 hours and allows emergency coverage of a drug up to 14 days. In instances where prior authorization is required, it is in place for patient safety. Maintaining utilization control is important to contain health care costs, protect patients, and ensure medically necessary care. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Recommend Support**Subject:** Medi-Cal, Mental Health**AB 1536****Name:** Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Immigrants.**Author:** Carrillo D**Vetoed:** 10/8/23

Link to Current Text: [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish and supervise a county- or county consortia-administered program to provide cash assistance for aged, blind, or disabled legal immigrants who are not citizens who, due to their immigration status, are not eligible for the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, also known as SSI/SSP benefits. Under current law, an individual is eligible for this program if their immigration status meets SSI/SSP eligibility criteria but they are not eligible for those benefits solely due to their immigration status, as specified. Current law also requires any person who is found to be eligible by the department for federally funded SSI to apply for SSI benefits. This bill would expand eligibility for that program to aged, blind, and disabled individuals regardless of immigration status if the individual meets the eligibility criteria for the program and is not eligible solely due to their immigration status. This bill would exempt individuals who are not qualified immigrants, as specified, from having to apply for SSI in order to receive benefits.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1536 without my signature. This bill would expand eligibility for the Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants (CAPI) program to include all eligible immigrants, regardless of their legal immigration status. While I appreciate the author's goal to expand CAPI eligibility regardless of immigration status, enacting this policy without providing funding would not be prudent nor would it meet its intended purpose. My Administration has taken significant steps to support the undocumented community, including the recent expansion of eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal, regardless of immigration status. This year, the 2023 Budget Act includes \$40 million to begin automation and outreach efforts to expand the California Food Assistance Program to incomeeligible individuals aged 55 years or older, regardless of their immigration status. This bill would result in significant costs of over \$100 million General Fund annually, because CAPI is a state-only program. These costs must be considered alongside other budgetary priorities as part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Support

Subject: Immigration, Disabilities, Older Adults, SSI/SSP

Associations: CWDA Support (2)

PAL Request: Approved

SB 773**Name:** CalWORKs: homeless assistance.**Author:** Glazer D**Vetoed:** 10/7/23**Link to Current Text:** [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Summary: Current law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals. Current law provides for homeless assistance to a homeless family seeking shelter when the family is eligible for CalWORKs aid, including a nonrecurring special needs benefit of \$85 a day to families of up to 4 members for the costs of temporary shelter, and a nonrecurring special needs benefit for permanent housing assistance to pay for last month's rent and security deposits if these payments are conditions of securing a residence, or to pay for up to 2 months of rent arrearages, if these payments are a reasonable condition of preventing eviction. Current law prohibits the last month's rent or monthly arrearage portion of the payment from exceeding 80% of the family's total monthly household income without the value of CalFresh benefits or special needs benefit for a family of that size, and requires it be made to families that have found permanent housing costing no more than 80% of the family's total monthly household income without the value of CalFresh benefits or special needs benefit for a family of that size. This bill, beginning January 1, 2025, or when specified automation processes are available, and for purposes of determining the family's total monthly household income for the permanent housing assistance, would require the county human services agency to include any amount that is regularly received from other government and nonprofit housing and homeless subsidy programs and any regularly received private support intended or designed to help the family with housing. The bill, beginning January 1, 2025, or when specified automation processes are available, upon application for temporary or permanent homeless assistance, would require the county to refer the assistance unit to any other homeless assistance services provided under the CalWORKs program and would authorize the county to give priority to the assistance unit for those services.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 773 without my signature. This bill would require counties to consider an expanded definition of income for purposes of calculating total monthly household income for CalWORKS Permanent Homeless Assistance (HA) Program eligibility. The California Department of Social Services (COSS) would be required to collect statewide data regarding HA and convene a statewide stakeholder advisory group. I appreciate the author's intent to get more people at risk of homelessness into permanent housing. My Administration has made significant investments to combat homelessness and provide housing supports. However, this bill would result in an ongoing annual fiscal impact to the state of more than a million dollars a year. These costs must be considered alongside other budgetary priorities as part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social

service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: CalWORKs, Homeless, Housing

Associations: CWDA Watch and Engage

Bills from Other Organizations



Health Care Services Agency Chaptered Bills

This is a list of bills in which the SSA is interested, which are under other organizations and/or have PALs written by the SSA and submitted through another organization.

Please note that bills which are watched by SSA, but in which the official position is No Interest, have not been included.

AB 48 Nursing Facility Resident Informed Consent Protection Act of 2023.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Position requested by Advisory Commission on Aging. Not directly related to SSA programs/services.

AB 524 Confidentiality of Medical Information Act: reproductive or sexual health application information.

SSA Position: Support

PAL: Submitted through HCSA for approval. Approved by PAL Committee.

Position requested by Commission on the Status of Women.

AB 271 Homeless death review committees.

SSA Position: Watch

AB 438 Local educational agency: Medi-Cal billing option.

SSA Position: Support

PAL: Submitted by HCSA and co-supported by SSA.

AB 1057

Name: California Home Visiting Program.

SSA Position: Support

PAL Request: Approved. Submitted through HCSA.

AB 1194

Name: California Privacy Rights Act of 2020: exemptions: abortion services.

SSA Position: Support

PAL Request: Approved. Submitted through HCSA.

AB 1285

Name: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program and Encampment Resolution Funding program.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Bill Sponsored by the City of Berkeley.

AB 1707

Name: Health professionals and facilities: adverse actions based on another state's law.

SSA Position: Support

PAL Request: Approved. Submitted through HCSA.

SB 43

Name: Behavioral Health.

SSA Position: Watch

SB 326

Name: The Behavioral Health Services Act.

SSA Position: Watch

SB 345

Name: Health care services: legally protected health care activities.

SSA Position: Support

PAL Request: Approved. Submitted through HCSA.

SB 525

Name: Minimum wages: health care workers.

SSA Position: Watch

SB 717

Name: County mental health care services.

SSA Position: Watch