

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of August 9, 2026

State Issues

Legislative Deadlines

Today is the legislative deadline for bills to pass out of the fiscal Appropriations Committees or be dead for the year. On Thursday, both the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committee held their fast paced, vote-only hearings where they announced the outcome of a total of 855 bills (293 Senate Bills and 562 Assembly Bills). Many bills passed out of Appropriations with amendments that will show up in print over the next few days, so we will know more next week about what is actually on the Floors of each house. Legislators have until the end of session (Monday, August 31st) to pass or kill all the bills on the Floor.

Listed below are the outcomes of a few key health bills we've been tracking all year:

- **AB 1776** (Aguiar Curry): Cartwright Act: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 2282** (Alanis): Freestanding Emergency Departments: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 2201** (Boerner): Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination: ***Held in Committee***
- **AB 2161** (Bonta): Medi-Cal Redeterminations: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 2348** (Bonta): Medi-Cal ECM: ***Passed***
- **AB 2368** (Bonta): Low-income Health Care: ***Held in Committee***
- **AB 2571** Flora: Reimbursement Pharmacy Services: ***Passed***
- **AB 2405** (Gipson): Mental Health: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 2598** (Krell): Next of Kin Notifications: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 1237** (McKinnor): Pool Safety: ***Held in Committee***
- **AB 1929** (Ortega): Investment Disclosures: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 2575** (Ortega): Health Care: AI: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 2311** (Schiavo): Health Care Districts: Employment: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 1672** (Solache): PACE: Rates: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 1887** (Zbur): Prescriptions Rare Disease: ***Passed, as amended***
- **AB 1930** (Zbur): Abortion and GAC: ***Passed***
- **SB 1023** (Laird): Health Coverage: Antiretroviral Drugs: ***Passed***
- **SB 58** (Padilla): Air Quality: ***Passed, as amended***
- **SB 1255** (Reyes): Hispanic-Serving Institutions: ***Passed***
- **SB 1089** (Richardson): Preventative Treatment Act: ***Passed***
- **SB 964** (Smallwood Cuevas): Dose Adjustments: ***Passed***
- **SB 1203** (Smallwood Cuevas): Security Services: ***Passed***
- **SB 1284** (Smallwood Cuevas): Medi-Cal Employer Reports: ***Held in Committee***

(more)

Legislative Deadlines (continued)	• SB 1094 (Weber Pierson): Prescription Drug: <i>Passed</i> • SB 1199 (Weber Pierson): Drug Cost Sharing: <i>Held in Committee</i> • SB 1202 (Weber Pierson): Medi-Cal Dashboard: <i>Held in Committee</i> • SB 895 (Weiner): CA Science Research Bond: <i>Passed, with amendments</i>
New Senate Republican Leader Named	With a lot less drama than their Assembly colleagues, the Senate Republican Caucus selected Senator Niello to be the Senate Republican Leader following the November 2026 election. “The Senate Republican Caucus is filled with passionate, intelligent, and hardworking public servants, and it will be my honor to serve as the Minority Leader,” said Senate Republican Leader-elect. “We will fight for Californians who deserve an affordable, safe state where people and families can thrive.” Niello will replace Senator Brian Jones, who is terming out this year. According to the press release, “Senate Republicans are on a roll the last two election cycles having gone from eight to ten members and scoring numerous legislative victories.” After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley and his master’s degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, Niello began his career as a Certified Public Accountant and joined his family business, the Niello Auto Group, in the Sacramento area. He spent the next 25 years running the car dealerships with his family. Niello was elected to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and then was elected to the California State Assembly and re-elected twice. During his six years in the Assembly, Niello served on many impactful committees, including Business and Professions and Budget Committees. After the Assembly, Niello accepted an appointment as President of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce. Niello was elected to represent Placer and Sacramento counties in the State Senate in 2022.
CalFresh Work and Workforce Training: Navigating New Federal Requirements	This week, the Public Policy Institute of California released a new report on “Cal Fresh Work and Workforce Training.” CalFresh helps low-income families afford food for their families, which has a substantive impact on family budgets and overall wellbeing. In 2025, HR 1 made significant changes that expand work and community engagement requirements to a larger group of working-age CalFresh participants, which could reduce access to Cal Fresh even for many who are workers. The report found that nearly two-thirds (64%) of working age CalFresh adults potentially affected by these limits had jobs around the time they enrolled in Cal Fresh and more than half of working adults’ cycle through employment and unemployment while they participate in CalFresh. PPIC notes that in this changing environment, state policy makers will need to consider both how to comply with federal rules and how to help adults continue receiving food assistance- and achieve their employment goals. They found: • About a quarter of working adults are employed in three industries—restaurants, employment services, and individual and family services. Work in the employment services industry tends to be episodic, exposing workers to time limits; jobs that support crop production are also episodic. → (more)

CalFresh Work and Workforce Training: Navigating New Federal Requirements <i>(continued)</i>	• Working adults who are relatively more likely to face time-limited benefits are men, people without children at home, older adults, and white and Black adults; these participants tend to have worse employment outcomes than women, adults with teenagers, younger adults, and Latinos. In addition, older adults ages 55 to 64 are less likely to have any earnings—and may need the most assistance with community engagement alternatives. → • We find new evidence that CalFresh Employment and Training (CFET) programs connect participants to the labor market and boost earned income. “Work experience” activities, which often directly connect participants with jobs, have the strongest outcomes, but they are costly. While CFET capacity and funding are currently limited, the program could be part of a strategy to leverage or build on existing investments to assist workers with CalFresh. →
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