



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Status of Sponsored/Co-Sponsored Bills

June 17, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The CFA is currently sponsoring or co-sponsoring six pieces of legislation during the 2021-22 legislative session. Below is a summary of those bills and a status update as of June 17, 2021.

- **Prohibition on Kinetic Energy Projectiles or Chemical Agents: CFA Sponsored Assembly Bill 48 (Gonzalez)** would prohibit the use of kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents by any law enforcement agency to disperse any assembly, protest or demonstration, except in compliance with specified standards, and would prohibit their use solely due to the violation of an imposed curfew, verbal threat or non-compliance with a law enforcement directive. In addition, the bill would include standards for the use of kinetic energy projectiles and chemicals to disperse gatherings that require, among other things, those weapons only be used to defend against a threat of life or serious bodily injury to any individual, including a peace officer.

Current Status: Passed off of the Assembly Floor on a 43-17 vote on June 1, 2021. AB 48 will now be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

- **PEACE Act: CFA Co-Sponsored Assembly Bill 89 (Jones-Sawyer)** would increase the minimum qualifying age to become a peace officer from 18 to 25 years of age. In addition, the bill would permit an individual under age 25 years of age to qualify for employment as a peace officer if the individual has a bachelor's degree or advanced degree from an accredited college or university. AB 89 would specify that these requirements do not apply to individuals 18-24 years of age who are already employed as a peace officer as of the effective date of this act.

Current Status: Passed off of the Assembly Floor on a 49-13-17 vote on June 3, 2021. AB 89 will now be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

- **Law Enforcement Agency Policies: Arrests: Positional Asphyxia: CFA Co-Sponsored Assembly Bill 490 (Gipson)** would prohibit a law enforcement agency from authorizing techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia.

Current Status: Passed off of the Assembly Floor on a 49-5 vote on June 2, 2021. AB 490 will now be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

- **CLEAR Act: CFA Co-Sponsored Assembly Bill 655 (Kalra)** would require that the current background investigations conducted on peace officer candidates include an inquiry into whether a candidate has engaged in membership in a hate group, participation in hate group activities or public expressions of hate. The bill would provide that certain findings would disqualify a person from employment. In addition, the bill would require an agency to investigate any internal complaint, or complaint made by the public, that alleges that a peace officer engaged in membership in a hate group, participation in hate group activities or public expressions of hate.

Current Status: Was held in Assembly Appropriations on May 20, 2021. It now becomes a two-year bill.

- **Broadband for All Act: CFA Co-Sponsored Senate Bill 4 (Gonzalez)** would require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), in approving California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) infrastructure projects, to prioritize projects in underserved areas where internet connectivity is limited. In addition, the bill would require the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, known as "GO-Biz" to coordinate with other relevant state and local agencies and national organizations to explore ways to facilitate streamlining of local land use approvals and construction permit processes for projects related to broadband infrastructure deployment and connectivity.

Current Status: Passed off of the Senate Floor on a 31-5 vote on June 2, 2021. SB 4 will now be heard in the Communications and Conveyance Committee.

- **County Sheriffs' Eligibility Requirements: CFA Co-Sponsored Senate Bill 271 (Wiener)** would restore California's long-standing eligibility criteria for candidates seeking the office of Sheriff. Specifically, the bill would allow all registered voters to run for Sheriff. The bill would allow voters to choose from a broader pool of candidates with more diverse backgrounds and skill sets with greater accountability.

Current Status: Passed Senate Public Safety on March 16, 2021 with a 4-1 vote. Hearing in Senate Governance and Finance was scheduled for May 6, 2021; however, it was pulled from the file at the request of the author. It now becomes a two-year bill.