



Legislative Update

August 3, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The CFA is sponsoring or co-sponsoring seven (7) pieces of legislation during the second year of the 2021-2022 biennial legislative session. Below are summaries of the CFA's sponsored/co-sponsored bills with their current status. Those bills on the Suspense Files in the Senate and Assembly will be heard on August 11, 2022. These hearings will determine if those bills are sent to the Floor of the respective House.

CFA Sponsored Bills

- **Alternative Campus Policing: Assembly Bill 1997 (Gipson)** would require the Chancellor of the California State University, on or before July 1, 2023, to convene a stakeholder workgroup that includes a representative from specified stakeholders, including faculty, staff, and students. The bill would require the stakeholder workgroup, at a minimum, to evaluate and report on alternative options to current emergency response programs on the campuses of the California State University and alternative dispute resolution options to resolve employee conflicts. The bill would require the stakeholder workgroup to submit a report to the Legislature and the Chancellor of the California State University nine months after the first meeting of the stakeholder workgroup that includes recommendations to alleviate concerns of current emergency response programs on the campuses of the California State University. The bill would repeal these provisions on July 1, 2027.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: AB 1997 passed off of the Assembly Floor on May 23, 2022 on a 50-15-13 vote. The bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee on a 5-1-1 vote on June 22, 2022. The bill was not heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee (pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8) and will now move to the Senate Floor.

- **Teacher Credentialing Task Force/Elimination of TPAs: Assembly Bill 2047 (C. Garcia)** would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to convene a Teacher Credentialing Task Force by March 2023 comprised of teacher educators from each segment of the higher education system, students in teacher credentialing programs, organizations representing university faculty, teachers, and administrators to examine the current teacher credentialing process and the impact that high-stakes teacher credentialing assessments, including the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET), California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) and Teacher Performance Assessments (TPAs), and their associated costs, have on the current teacher shortage and the lack of diversity in the teaching workforce.

The bill would also require the Commission to provide a report on the findings and recommendations from this Task Force to the Legislature by December 2023 that outlines the barriers these assessments present, and policy recommendations based on those findings, for increasing the number and diversity of qualified educators in California. Finally, AB 2047 would also end the use of Teacher Performance Assessments in California's teacher-education programs. This includes removing TPAs from all high-stakes decisions. This bill would protect prospective teachers from the expenses related to TPAs and prevent additional financial and emotional burdens on our prospective teachers.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: Not scheduled for a hearing at the recommendation of the Assembly Education Committee Chair (Bill is dead).

- **Parental Support: Assembly Bill 2464 (C. Garcia)** would require bargaining unit employees to be entitled to one semester of paid parental leave. Such leave shall be taken consecutively, unless mutually agreed otherwise by the employee and the appropriate administrator. Such leave shall be charged only for workdays in such a period of time and may be used for reason of the birth of a child of the employee or the placement of a child with an employee in connection with the adoption or foster care of the child by the employee.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: AB 2464 passed off of the Assembly Floor on May 23, 2022 on a 57-9-12 vote. The bill passed out of the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on a 5-0 vote on June 13, 2022. The bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee on a 5-1-1 vote on June 29, 2022. The bill was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 1, 2022 and was placed on the Suspense File.

- **Divestment from Fossil Fuels: Senate Bill 1173 (L. Gonzalez and Wiener)** would prohibit the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a fossil fuel company. The bill would require the boards to liquidate investments in a fossil fuel company on or before July 1, 2030. The bill would provide that it does not require a board to take any action unless the board determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board's fiduciary responsibilities established in the California Constitution. This bill would require the boards, commencing February 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, to file a report with the Legislature and the Governor, containing specified information, including a list of fossil fuel companies of which the board has liquidated their investments. The bill would provide that board members and other officers and employees shall be held harmless and be eligible for indemnification in connection with actions taken pursuant to the bill's requirements.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: SB 1173 passed off of the Senate Floor on May 25, 2022 on a 21-10-9 vote. The bill was scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee on June 22, 2022; however, the

bill was pulled from the agenda by the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee Chair (Bill is dead).

CFA Co-Sponsored Bills

- **California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform Act: Assembly Bill 655 (Kalra)** would require the background investigation for peace officer candidates to include an inquiry into whether a candidate for specified peace officer positions has engaged in membership in a hate group, participation in any hate group activity, or advocacy of public expressions of hate, as those terms are defined. The bill would provide that certain findings would disqualify a person from employment. In addition, the bill would require an agency to investigate, as specified, any internal complaint, or complaint made by the public that alleges, as specified, that a peace officer engaged in membership in a hate group, participation in any hate group activity, or advocacy of public expressions of hate. The bill would provide that certain findings would require the employing agency to remove that peace officer from appointment. Finally, AB 655 would require the Department of Justice to adopt and promulgate guidelines for the investigation and adjudication of these complaints by local agencies.

Position: Co-Sponsor

Current Status: AB 655 passed off of the Assembly Floor on January 31, 2022 on a 48-18-10 vote. The bill passed out of the Senate Public Safety Committee on a 4-0-1 vote on June 21, 2022. The bill was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 1, 2022 and was placed on the Suspense File.

- **Independent Coroners' Offices: Assembly Bill 1608 (Gipson and Weber)** would remove the Board of Supervisors' authority to combine the duties of the sheriff with the duties of the coroner. In addition, the bill would remove the Board of Supervisors' authority to combine the duties of the tax collector with the duties of the coroner. AB 1608 would also require the Board of Supervisors of a county where the offices of the sheriff and coroner were consolidated before January 1, 2023 to separate those offices, in which case the separation would become effective upon the conclusion of the term of the person elected or appointed to the consolidated offices of sheriff and coroner. AB 1608 would ensure that local death investigations are conducted independently and objectively, reducing any perception of biased investigative medical examinations when determining the cause of death of an individual, including those in custody.

Position: Co-Sponsor

Current Status: AB 1608 passed off of the Assembly Floor on May 16, 2022 on a 44-20-14 vote. The bill passed out of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on a 4-1 vote on June 22, 2022. The bill passed out of the Senate Public Safety Committee on a 4-1 vote on June 28, 2022. The bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading on the Senate Floor on June 30, 2022; however, it was re-referred back to the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 1, 2022 (pursuant to Joint Rule 10.5).

- **Student and Faculty Housing Act: Environmental Impact Reports: Senate Bill 886 (Wiener)** would streamline decisions through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that are made by the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC) to build or expand student housing by excluding these developments from the definition of "projects" under CEQA. This would only apply to student or faculty/staff housing projects on campus-owned land. Additionally, the bill would require the colleges to use skilled and trained contractors and pay them a prevailing wage. These student or faculty/staff housing projects may include auxiliary uses, such as dining facilities and study spaces. The exemption does not apply to sites located within very high wildfire risk areas, farmland, hazardous waste sites, earthquake zones, flood zones, wetlands, habitats for protected species, or a conservation area.

Position: Co-Sponsor

Current Status: SB 886 passed off of the Senate Floor on May 24, 2022 on a 33-1-6 vote. The bill passed out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on a 6-1-4 vote on June 13, 2022. The bill was heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 29, 2022 and placed on the Suspense File.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ron Rapp, Legislative Director
916.715.2805
rrapp@calfac.org

Tomas Figueroa, Legislative Analyst
916.402.1233
tfigueroa@calfac.org