

Public Benefits and Access to Justice Legislative Update
Thursday, August 6, 2020

The legislative deadline for the Legislature to pass a bill out of both houses is August 31st. The legislative calendars for both the California Senate and the Assembly are [posted online](#). Below is a list of bills that Western Center's Public Benefits and Access to Justice Team is tracking and that have been passed out of the house of origin. Our position is noted if we have taken one.

Revenue Legislation

[AB 1253](#) ([Santiago](#)) would increase income taxes on the ultra-wealthy by increasing taxes by 2% on taxable income over \$1 million impacting less than .05 percent of taxpayers, increasing the current millionaire tax from 13.3% to 15.3% and bringing an estimated \$6 billion in state revenue.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Support

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

[SB 33](#) ([Skinner](#)) would prevent online cash EBT purchases unless retailer has been approved by CDSS and would establish food safety requirements for online CalFresh EBT purchases.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 826](#) ([Santiago](#)) would provide emergency food assistance for Californians who are underserved by other food assistance programs.

Location: Senate Human Services – Hearing Set for August 10, 2020

Position: Support

[AB 987](#) ([R.Rivas](#)) would make changes to the CalWORKs special food benefit) and add lack of fresh water and high blood levels as reasons to receive the CalWORKs special food needs supplement.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee – Two Year Bill Pending Hearing in 2020

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2282](#) ([McCarty](#)) would address College Student Hunger.

Location: Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

[AB 2413](#) ([Ting](#)) would improve the ability of County Human Services Agencies to serve eligible Californians with CalFresh benefits.

Location: Provisions of AB 2413 were included in the Budget Act, [Trailer Bill – Assembly Bill 79](#)

Position: Support

[AB 3073](#) ([Wicks](#)) would require the Department of Social Services to issue guidance on the allowable practices to maximize CalFresh eligibility for people leaving jail or prison.

Location: Senate Human Services – Hearing Set for August 10, 2020

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Access to Justice

[SB 144 \(Mitchell\)](#) would repeal state law authorizing specified criminal justice fees.

Location: Assembly Public Safety Committee – Hearing Cancelled

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 472 \(Caballero\)](#) would establish consumer protections related to advance pay financial services.

Location: Assembly Banking and Finance – Two Year Bill Pending Hearing in 2020

[SB 555 \(Mitchell\)](#) the Jail Fair Access for Connections to Support (FACTS) Act would reduce the heavy financial burden placed on the families and support systems of incarcerated individuals. SB 555 aims to eliminate the exorbitant costs of communications (including phone calls, video visitation and electronic communications), regulate the prices for goods sold inside county jails (hygiene products and food), and require that profits made from these services are reinvested to support people incarcerated in California County Jails, as well as their transition back into their communities.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Support

[SB 664 \(Allen\)](#) would retroactively change state law to allow toll agencies to enforce toll violations and civil penalties without providing notice to those alleged to have committed a violation.

Location: Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection – Two Year Bill Pending Hearing in 2020

Position: Oppose

[SB 749 \(Durazo\)](#) would provide that records relating to wages, benefits, working hours, and other employment terms for a private industry employer as a result of a contract with a state or local agency are public records and shall not be deemed to be trade secrets under specified conditions.

Location: Assembly Floor - Two Year Bill Inactive

Position: Support

[SB 908 \(Wieckowski\)](#) would enact the Debt Collection Licensing Act which would provide for the licensure, regulation, and oversight of debt collectors by the Department of Business Oversight.

Location: Assembly Banking and Finance

Position: Support

[SB 1257 \(Durazo\)](#) The Health and Safety for All Workers Act would eliminate the exclusion of “household domestic service” from California’s Occupational Health and Safety Protections.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Support

[SB 1290 \(Durazo & Mitchell\)](#) would require counties to stop collecting juvenile fees assessed before 2018.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1399](#) ([Durazo](#)) would reduce poverty among low-income workers in the Garment Industry by ensuring that they are paid the minimum wages and that there are policies in place that actually work to reduce wage theft, which is highly common in the industry and for which those that profit from the theft are rarely held accountable.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SCR 69](#) ([Bradford](#)) This resolution would express the Legislature's support for fair and just wages for workers who are incarcerated, working for the Prison Industry Authority, the Division of Juvenile Facilities, and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Location: Assembly Public Safety Committee

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 31](#) ([Garcia](#)) would exempt period supplies from state sales tax, which were temporarily suspended in the Budget Act of 2019-20.

Location: Senate - Governance and Finance Committee

Position: Support

[AB 901](#) ([Gipson](#)) would change the laws relating to how a child struggling to attend school is treated by school officials, the youth criminal justice system, and the youth probation system.

Location: Senate Desk

Position: Support

[AB 1958](#) ([Cooper](#)) would expand the threat of criminal penalties on people who are unhoused if they rest or sleep near or on a levee.

Location: Senate Committee on Natural Resources – hearing Cancelled at request of Author

Position: Oppose

[AB 2338](#) ([Weber](#)) would permit a court to grant probation or a conditional sentence, as defined, instead of imprisonment for a non-custodial parent found in contempt for failure to comply with a child support order.

Location: Senate Public Safety – Hearing Postponed

Position: Support

[AB 2520](#) ([Chiu](#)) would add legal service providers to the list of people who may receive, upon written request by the patient, a copy, at no charge, of the relevant portion of the patient's records, when they show proof that the records or supporting forms are needed to support a claim or appeal regarding eligibility for a public benefits, as listed and expanded by this act.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 3121 \(Weber\)](#) would establish the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans to summarize existing evidence of the institution of slavery that existed within the United States and the colonies and to recommend, among other things, the form and mode of compensation that should be awarded in a report to the Judiciary. [See our statement about this bill.](#)

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Support

[AB 3277 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would increase the total amount that can be paid in installments for parking ticket penalties and related service fees.

Location: Senate Committee on Transportation

Position: Neutral

[ACA 5 \(Weber, et al\)](#) would allow for a proposition on the state ballot to amend the Constitution to as follows to repeal Section 31 of Article I that was established by Proposition 209 and, effectively, restoring affirmative action.

Location: Passed and will be placed on the November, 2020, ballot.

Position: Support

[ACA 6 \(McCarty\)](#) would allow for a proposition on the state ballot to amend the Constitution to restore the right to vote to people on parole in the 2020 ballot. ACA 6 is accompanied by AB 646, which enacts corresponding changes to California's Elections Code. To participate in the campaign to pass the ballot proposition, [click here](#).

Location: Passed and will be placed on the November, 2020, ballot.

Position: Support

Income Assistance, Work Supports, Child Support & Basic Needs Support

[SB 912 \(Beall\)](#) would require that extended foster care support continue for 12 months from the date of the declaration for a nonminor dependent who turns 21 years of age while the state of emergency is in effect. The bill would also require a nonminor dependent who is unable to meet certain participation conditions or to qualify for an exception, as specified, to continue to receive foster care support for 12 months from the date of the declaration.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Support

[SB 1065 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would make specified changes to the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1232 \(Glazer\)](#) would provide low-income parents in a CalWORKs recipient family who are making satisfactory progress at a publicly funded postsecondary educational institution a standard allowance of \$250 to \$500 per academic term to support the costs of education. It would also exempt them from participating in work activities and entitle them to an extension of the 24-month time clock.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Support

[SB 1409](#) ([Caballero](#)) would require the Franchise Tax Board to analyze and develop a plan to implement a “no return” tax filing pilot program to increase the number of claims of the CalEITC.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1993](#) ([Kamlager](#)) would expand the definition of “employment” for the purposes of unemployment insurance (UI) coverage to include services performed by an individual caring for their parent, child, or spouse as an In-Home Supportive Services provider.

Location: Senate Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 2325](#) ([Carrillo](#)) would restore Section 4007.5 of the Family Code with a 3 year sunset. This law was allowed to sunset last year, requiring child support order suspensions to be process manually for people who are incarcerated over 90 days, rather than have them automatically suspended.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2388](#) ([Berman](#)) would establish a one-stop resource center for students that need basic needs assistance, including housing and food insecurities.

Location: Senate Education Committee – Hearing Cancelled

Position: Support

[AB 2567](#) ([Burke](#)) would restore the 60 month time-on-aid clock for the CalWORKs program, which was cut to 48 during the last recession. [Nearly 3 in 4 states offering more time on aid](#) than California.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee - Held under Submission in the Committee, but provisions of the bill included in were included in the Budget Act, [Trailer Bill – Assembly Bill 79](#)

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 3134](#) ([Gómez Reyes](#)) would extend the length of time that a refugee family could receive Refugee Cash Assistance.

Location: Senate Human Services Committee

Position: Support

Preventing Liability Immunity

[AB 1035](#) ([Ramos](#)) Would give liability immunity to small businesses for COVID-19 related injuries.

Location: Senate Judiciary Committee

Position: Oppose

[AB 1384](#) ([O’Donnell](#)) Would give liability immunity to local educational agencies for COVID-19-related injuries.

Location: Senate Judiciary Committee

Position: Oppose



[AB 1759 \(Salas\)](#) Would give liability immunity to Institutions of higher education for COVID-19-related injuries.

Location: Senate Judiciary Committee

Position: Oppose

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

For over five decades, the Western Center on Law & Poverty has advocated on behalf of individuals with low incomes in every branch of California government—from the courts to the Legislature. Through the lens of economic and racial justice, we litigate, educate and advocate around health care, housing, and public benefits policies and administration. Learn more at: www.wclp.org. For more information about these bills or about our legislative positions in this issue area, contact:

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