

Public Benefits and Access to Justice Legislative Summary
October 1, 2020

The constitutional deadline for the Governor to sign or veto a bill passed in this legislative session was yesterday, Wednesday, September 30, 2020. Below is a list of bills that Western Center's Public Benefits and Access to Justice Team has been tracking and that were passed out of the legislature. Our position is noted if we have taken one. The implementation for bills signed into law and chaptered is January 1, 2021, unless otherwise noted in the law.

Revenue Legislation

[SB 972 \(Skinner\)](#) would require a Franchise Tax Board report relating to corporate taxes.

Location: VETOED

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: Held in Assembly Appropriations - Dead

Position: Sponsor & Support

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

Location: VETOED

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 **Signed 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: **Signed by the Governor - Chapter 225, Statutes of 2020.**

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Access to Justice

[SB 144 \(Mitchell\)](#) / [AB 1869 \(Budget Committee\)](#) to repeal state law authorizing specified criminal justice fees. The bill language was moved into Budget Trailer bill [AB 1869](#), which repealed 23 of the criminal justice fees and expunged an estimated \$16 Billion in outstanding debt associated with these fees. To follow the ongoing work to repeal the remainder of the fees, please contact the Debt Free Justice Coalition at: <https://ebclc.org/cadebtjustice/about/>

Location: **AB 1869 Signed by the Governor - Chapter 92, Statutes of 2020.**

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 555 \(Mitchell\)](#) the Jail Fair Access for Connections to Support (FACTS) Act would eliminate the 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: VETOED

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 163, Statutes of 2020.

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: VETOED

Position: Support

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

Location: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 340, Statutes of 2020.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 376 \(Stone\)](#) would establish the California Student Load Borrowers Bill of Rights.

Location: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 154, Statutes of 2020.

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 323, Statutes of 2020.

Position: Support

[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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 283, Statutes of 2020.

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 101, Statutes of 2020.

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 319, Statutes of 2020.

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 55, Statutes of 2020.

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. 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

[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 non-minor dependent who turns 21 years of age during the state of emergency. It would also require a non-minor dependent unable to meet participation conditions or qualify for an exception to continue support for 12 months from the date of declaration.

Location: VETOED

Position: Support

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

Location: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 152, Statutes of 2020.

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 366, Statutes of 2020.

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 114, Statutes of 2020.

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: VETOED

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: Signed by the Governor - Chapter 217, Statutes of 2020.

Position: Co-Sponsor & 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 were included in the **Signed** Budget Act, [Trailer Bill – Assembly Bill 79](#)

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 1341](#) ([Hurtado](#)) would support family reunification of a child removed from a home by Child Protective Services by allowing the family to continue to receive a CalWORKs grant for established period of time.

Location: VETOED

Position: Support

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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