



**First 5 California
Bills of Interest by Level**

Level 1

(Sponsor Bills; 1-5 per year): draft language/amendments; organize partners/meetings; provide testimony/presentations; author outreach for PR support; letters/statements of support

SB 951 (Durazo) Unemployment insurance: contribution rates: disability insurance: paid family leave: weekly benefit amount.

Sponsor Summary: Current law authorizes the Director of Employment Development to increase or decrease the rate of worker contributions, up to a certain amount, if the director determines the adjustment is necessary to reimburse the Unemployment Compensation Disability Fund for disability benefits paid or estimated to be paid or to prevent the accumulation of funds in excess of those needed to maintain an adequate fund balance. Under current law, the remuneration of a worker over a specified amount is not subject to the contribution levels described above. Under existing law, specifically, the worker contribution provision does not apply to that part of a worker's remuneration which is paid after remuneration with respect to employment equal to 4 times the maximum weekly benefit for each calendar year specified, multiplied by 13 and divided by 55%, has been paid to an individual by an employer. This bill would remove that limitation.

SB 976 (Leyva) Universal Preschool Act.

Sponsor Summary: Would rename the Early Education Act as the Universal Preschool Act, and would revise and recast the act to, among other things, require the State Department of Education, in consultation with the State Department of Social Services, to administer the universal preschool program. The bill would require the Superintendent and the Director of Social Services to convene a statewide coordination council to develop, among other things, goals, guidelines, and best practices to be used at a local level to implement a universal preschool program, as provided. The bill would require the Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Social Services, to develop standards for the implementation of high-quality preschool programs in all settings, including, among other settings, transitional kindergarten.

Level 2

(Priority Bills; 1-5 per year): author outreach for PR support; letters/statements of support

- AB 92**
Support **(Reyes) Preschool and childcare and development services: family fees.**
Summary: Current law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a fee schedule for families using preschool and childcare and development services, as specified, and requires family fees, not to exceed 10% of the family's monthly income, to be assessed at initial enrollment and reassessed at the update of certification or recertification. Current law exempts certain families from those fees. Current law, as of July 1, 2021, transfers those services and responsibility from the State Department of Education to the State Department of Social Services. This bill would, among other things, instead require the family fees to not exceed 1% of the family's monthly income. The bill would require the lead agency to convene a workgroup of, among others, parents, childcare providers, and lead agency staff to develop an equitable fee schedule, as specified.
- AB 2465**
Support **(Bonta, Mia) Pupil instruction: third-grade literacy: literacy grant programs: multilingual and dual language immersion educators: libraries.**
Summary: Current law authorizes the creation of library districts to establish, equip, and maintain public libraries for the dissemination of knowledge of the arts, sciences, and general literature. Current law establishes in the state government an agency known as the California State Library. This bill would, contingent on an appropriation, require the department to develop and implement a competitive grant program to award funds to local educational agencies, library districts, and public libraries for the purpose of providing a library card to every public school pupil enrolled in the local educational agency, as provided. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to encourage all residents to use California state libraries, regardless of immigration status, and the department to provide information on its internet website about legal assistance and guidance to undocumented pupils, immigrants, and their families.
- AB 2589**
Support **(Santiago) Earned Income Tax Credit: one-time child tax credit payment.**
Summary: The Personal Income Tax Law, beginning on or after January 1, 2015, in modified conformity with federal income tax laws, allows an earned income tax credit against personal income tax and a payment from the Tax Relief and Refund Account for an allowable credit in excess of tax liability to an eligible individual that is equal to that portion of the earned income tax credit allowed by federal law as determined by the earned income tax credit adjustment factor, as specified. The law provides that the amount of the credit is calculated as a percentage of the eligible individual's earned income and is phased out above a specified amount as income increases and provides alternative calculation factors under specified circumstances. The law requires, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, specified earned income amounts, phaseout amounts, and the amount of disqualified income that would disallow this credit to be recomputed annually in the same manner as the recomputation of income tax brackets, as prescribed. This bill, upon appropriation, for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2022, would revise the alternative calculation factors and phaseout amounts and remove the earned income threshold at which the phaseout ends, thereby increasing the amount of eligible taxpayers.

SB 854 (Skinner) Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Act of 2022.

Support **Summary:** Would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature or a provision of federal or private funds for these purposes, establish the Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) Account Program to be administered by the Treasurer to provide eligible children, defined to include minor California residents who are specified dependents or wards under the jurisdiction of juvenile court in foster care for at least 12 months, or who have a parent or guardian who died due to COVID-19 and meet specified family household income limit, with a trust fund account. The bill would require the Treasurer, upon enrollment of an eligible child, to deposit into their trust fund account specified initial deposits and unspecified annual deposits. The bill would authorize a program enrollee to, on and after their 18th or 21st birthday, withdraw or transfer funds from their trust fund account. The bill would require the Treasurer to maintain a publicly available internet website where people may apply for the HOPE Account Program, and program enrollees may have password-protected online access to view information about the trust fund account's growth and value, among other things. The bill would require, no later than March 1, 2023, the California Health and Human Services Agency to submit a report to the Legislature that identifies the authority necessary to expand the HOPE Account Program to include all children born into low-income circumstances and assesses the funding to do that, among other things.

Level 3

(Bills expressly consistent with Policy Agenda; 30-50 per year): letters/statements of support

AB 4 (Arambula) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Support **Summary:** Would, effective January 1, 2022, extend eligibility for full scope Medi-Cal benefits to anyone regardless of age, and who is otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status, pursuant to an eligibility and enrollment plan. The bill would delete the specified provisions regarding individuals who are under 25 years of age or 65 years of age or older and delaying implementation until the director makes the determination described above. The bill would require the eligibility and enrollment plan to ensure that an individual maintains continuity of care with respect to their primary care provider, as prescribed, would provide that an individual is not limited in their ability to select a different health care provider or Medi-Cal managed care health plan, and would require the department to provide monthly updates to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on the status of the implementation of these provisions

AB 32

Support

(Aguiar-Curry) Telehealth.

Summary: Current law requires a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, to specify that coverage is provided for health care services appropriately delivered through telehealth on the same basis and to the same extent as in-person diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. Current law exempts Medi-Cal managed care plans that contract with the State Department of Health Care Services under the Medi-Cal program from these provisions, and generally exempts county organized health systems that provide services under the Medi-Cal program from Knox-Keene. This bill would delete the above-described references to contracts issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, would require these provisions to apply to the plan or insurer's contracted entity, as specified, and would delete the exemption for Medi-Cal managed care plans.

AB 47

Support

(Reyes) Human services: coordinated immigration support services.

Summary: Would require the State Department of Social Services to establish a grant program that provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations, as defined, for the provision of multitiered and coordinated immigration support services in California to undocumented and mixed-status families who reside in the state and were separated by the federal government. The bill would require those support services to meet specified criteria.

AB 221

Support

(Santiago) Emergency food assistance.

Summary: Would require the State Department of Social Services to provide a food assistance benefit to low-income California residents, regardless of immigration status, by contracting with nonprofit entities, as defined, to issue the food assistance benefit in the form of prepaid cards. The bill would require the department to procure the prepaid cards to administer the food assistance benefit and to ensure the availability of those prepaid cards to nonprofit entities, as specified. The bill would require participating nonprofit entities to maintain specified records. The bill would require the department and nonprofit entities to distribute all of the food assistance benefits by July 1, 2023. The bill would authorize the department to implement, interpret, or make specific these provisions without taking regulatory action.

AB 401

Support

(Chiu) Employment Development Department: language translations.

Summary: Current law requires all standard information employee pamphlets provided by the Employment Development Department concerning unemployment and disability insurance programs to be printed in English and the 7 other most commonly used languages among participants in each program. Current law also requires the department to make the pages on its internet website that provide information regarding applying for, and receiving, unemployment insurance benefits available in the 7 languages, other than English, most commonly used by unemployment insurance applicants and claimants. This bill would require all standard information employee pamphlets provided by the department concerning unemployment and disability insurance programs to be printed in English and any written language that is or becomes a Medi-Cal threshold language in any county, as provided.

AB 470

Support

(Carrillo) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Summary: Would prohibit the use of resources, including property or other assets, to determine eligibility under the Medi-Cal program to the extent permitted by federal law, and would require the department to seek federal authority to disregard all resources as authorized by the flexibilities provided pursuant to federal law. The bill would authorize the State Department of Health Care Services to implement this prohibition by various means, including provider bulletins, without taking regulatory authority. By January 1, 2023, the bill would require the department to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations on the prohibition, and to update its notices and forms to delete any reference to limitations on resources or assets.

AB 1041

Support

(Wicks) Employment: leave.

Summary: Would expand the population that an employee can take leave to care for to include a designated person. The bill would define "designated person" to mean a person identified by the employee at the time the employee requests family care and medical leave. The bill would authorize an employer to limit designation of a person, as prescribed.

AB 1649

Support

(Quirk-Silva) Childcare services: alternative payment programs.

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Social Services to contract with local contracting agencies for alternative payment programs for childcare services to be provided throughout the state. Existing law requires the alternative payment program to reimburse childcare providers based upon specified criteria, including the actual days and hours of attendance for those families with variable schedules. This bill, instead, would require the alternative payment program to reimburse childcare providers based upon the maximum certified hours of care. The bill would also include intent language relating to equitable access to childcare for working families and a set reimbursement for all licensed and exempt providers who accept subsidized childcare vouchers.

AB 1728

Support

(Rivas, Robert) CalWORKs: welfare-to-work: exemptions.

Summary: Under the CalWORKs program, recipients are required to participate in specified welfare-to-work activities, except for specified persons, including a parent or other relative who has primary responsibility for personally providing care to a child 6 months of age or under, except that the period may be reduced to the first 12 weeks after birth or adoption or increased to the first 12 months after birth or adoption. Current law authorizes an individual to be exempted only once pursuant to that exemption, and requires a 12-week exemption for any subsequent children, except as specified. Current law also exempts a parent or other caretaker relative who has primary responsibility for personally providing care to one child from birth to 23 months and authorizes an individual to be exempted pursuant to this provision once. Current law authorizes an individual not required to participate in welfare-to-work activities to participate voluntarily if the individual's status has not changed in a way that would require participation. This bill would, among other things, expand the exemption for a parent or other relative providing care to a child by instead exempting parents and other relatives who have primary responsibility for personally providing care to a child 3 years of age or younger, for up to 36 cumulative months for the same child or for a combination of that child and subsequent children.

AB 1973 (McCarty) Education finance: base grants: adjustments: kindergarten: minimum schoolday.

Support **Summary:** Current law establishes a public school financing system that requires state funding for county superintendents of schools, school districts, and charter schools to be calculated pursuant to a local control funding formula, as specified. Current law requires funding pursuant to the local control funding formula to include, in addition to a grade span adjusted base grant, a 10.4% adjustment to the kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, base grant for school districts that maintain, or make progress toward, as specified, an average class enrollment of not more than 24 pupils for each schoolsite. This bill would require, commencing with the 2025–26 school year, as a condition of receiving that additional adjustment, a school district or charter school that offers a kindergarten program, to provide, at each schoolsite that offers a kindergarten program, a minimum schoolday for the kindergarten day that is at least equivalent to the minimum schoolday provided for grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

AB 2153 (Arambula) California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program.

Support **Summary:** Would establish the California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program and create the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Expansion Fund in the State Treasury. The program would include a process and guidelines for the State Department of Social Services to, upon the deposit of sufficient moneys in the fund, enroll authorized retailers to enable those authorized retailers to provide supplemental benefits to CalFresh recipients who purchase California-grown fresh fruits and vegetables. The bill would authorize the department to initially allocate from any appropriation made for the purposes of the program, \$140,000,000 for large authorized retailers that are not direct farm-to-consumer authorized retailers to provide supplemental benefits, \$40,000,000 for small authorized retailers that are not direct farm-to-consumer authorized retailers to provide supplemental benefits, and \$60,000,000 for direct farm-to-consumer authorized retailers to provide supplemental benefits.

AB 2300 (Kalra) CalWORKs and CalFresh: work requirements.

Support **Summary:** Current law generally requires a recipient of CalWORKs benefits to participate in welfare-to-work activities as a condition of eligibility for aid. Current law exempts certain persons from the welfare-to-work activities, including an individual whose presence in the home is required because of the illness or incapacity of another member of the household and whose caretaking responsibilities impair the recipient's ability to be regularly employed or to participate in welfare-to-work activities. Under this bill, a parent, including both a birthing and nonbirthing parent, would qualify for that exemption for 12 weeks following the birth of a child. Under the bill, an adoptive or foster parent would also qualify for the exemption for 12 weeks following the adoption or foster placement of each child.

AB 2402

Support

(Rubio, Blanca) Medi-Cal: continuous eligibility.

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Health Care Services, to the extent federal financial participation is available, to exercise a federal option to extend continuous eligibility for the Medi-Cal program to children 19 years of age and younger until the earlier of either the end of a 12-month period following the eligibility determination or the date the child exceeds 19 years of age. Under this bill, a child under 5 years of age would be continuously eligible for Medi-Cal, including without regard to income, until the child reaches 5 years of age. The bill would prohibit the redetermination of Medi-Cal eligibility before the child reaches 5 years of age, unless the department or county possesses facts indicating that the family has requested the child's voluntary disenrollment, the child is deceased, the child is no longer a state resident, or the child's original enrollment was based on a state or county error or on fraud, abuse, or perjury, as specified. The bill would condition implementation of these provisions on receipt of any necessary federal approvals and, except as specified, on the availability of federal financial participation.

AB 2466

Support

(Cervantes) Foster children.

Summary: Current law generally provides for the placement of foster children in various placement settings, and governs the provision of child welfare services, which is defined to mean public social services that are directed toward the accomplishment of specified purposes, including protecting and promoting the welfare of all children, preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families, and restoring to their families children who have been removed. This bill would explicitly prohibit placing agencies, when placing foster children, from declining to place a child with a resource family because a resource family parent identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ). The bill would also remove various uses of the phrase "hard-to-place children."

AB 2806

Support

(Rubio, Blanca) Childcare and developmental services: preschool: expulsion and suspension: mental health services: reimbursement rates.

Summary: The Child Care and Development Services Act, administered by the State Department of Social Services, establishes a system of childcare and development services for children up to 13 years of age. The Early Education Act requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to, among other things, provide an inclusive and cost-effective preschool program. The act prohibits a contracting agency, as part of the state preschool program, from expelling or unenrolling a child because of a child's behavior, except as provided. Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to consider, in determining whether to issue a citation or impose a civil penalty to a state preschool program, whether the program is in the process of complying with the above law relating to expulsion or unenrollment. This bill would revise and recast the above provisions relating to the expulsion or unenrollment of a child from the state preschool program and would include a general childcare and development program and family childcare home education network program as part of those provisions, as provided.

SB 17**Support****(Pan) Office of Racial Equity.**

Summary: Would, until January 1, 2029, would establish in state government an Office of Racial Equity, an independent public entity not affiliated with an agency or department, governed by a Racial Equity Advisory and Accountability Council. The bill would authorize the council to hire an executive director to organize, administer, and manage the operations of the office. The bill would task the office with coordinating, analyzing, developing, evaluating, and recommending strategies for advancing racial equity across state agencies, departments, and the office of the Governor. The bill would require the office, in consultation with state agencies, departments, and public stakeholders, as appropriate, to develop a statewide Racial Equity Framework that includes a strategic plan with policy and inclusive practice recommendations, guidelines, goals, and benchmarks to reduce racial inequities, promote racial equity, and address individual, institutional, and structural racism.

SB 56**Support****(Durazo) Medi-Cal: eligibility.**

Summary: Current law provides that Medi-Cal benefits for individuals who are 65 years of age or older, and who do not have satisfactory immigration statuses or are unable to establish satisfactory immigration statuses, will be prioritized in the Budget Act for the upcoming fiscal year if the Department of Finance projects a positive ending balance in the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the ensuing 3 fiscal years that exceeds the cost of providing those individuals with full-scope Medi-Cal benefits. This bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, and effective July 1, 2022, extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals who are 60 years of age or older, and who are otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status.

SB 70**Support****(Rubio) Elementary education: kindergarten.**

Summary: Would, beginning with the 2022–23 school year, require a child to have completed one year of kindergarten before that child may be admitted to the first grade at a public elementary school, except for a child who has been lawfully admitted to a public school kindergarten or a private school kindergarten in California, but has not yet completed one school year, and is judged to be ready for first-grade work, as specified, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

SB 316
Support

(Eggman) Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

Summary: Current law provides that FQHC and RHC services are to be reimbursed, to the extent that federal financial participation is obtained, to providers on a per-visit basis. "Visit" is defined as a face-to-face encounter between a patient of an FQHC or RHC and specified health care professionals, including a physician and marriage and family therapist. Under existing law, "physician," for these purposes, includes, but is not limited to, a physician and surgeon, an osteopath, and a podiatrist. This bill would authorize reimbursement for a maximum of 2 visits taking place on the same day at a single location if after the first visit the patient suffers illness or injury requiring additional diagnosis or treatment, or if the patient has a medical visit and a mental health visit or a dental visit, as defined. The bill would authorize an FQHC or RHC that currently includes the cost of a medical visit and a mental health visit that take place on the same day at a single location as a single visit for purposes of establishing the FQHC's or RHC's rate to apply for an adjustment to its per-visit rate, and after the department has approved that rate adjustment, to bill a medical visit and a mental health visit that take place on the same day at a single location as separate visits, in accordance with the bill.

SB 464
Support

(Hurtado) California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish a food assistance program, known as the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), to provide assistance to a noncitizen of the United States if the person's immigration status meets the eligibility criteria of SNAP in effect on August 21, 1996, but the person is not eligible for SNAP benefits solely due to their immigration status, as specified. Current law also makes eligible for the program an applicant who is otherwise eligible for the program, but who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, if the applicant is sponsored and the applicant meets one of a list of criteria, including that the applicant, after entry into the United States, is a victim of the sponsor or the spouse of the sponsor if the spouse is living with the sponsor. bill instead would require the department to use state funds appropriated for CFAP to provide nutritional benefits to households that are ineligible for CalFresh benefits solely due to their immigration status. The bill would eliminate the distinctions based on when the noncitizen applicant entered the country and would eliminate the sponsorship and other listed criteria requirements for eligibility on a noncitizen who entered the country on or after August 22, 1996.

SB 860
Support

(Rubio) Personal Income Tax Law: Young Child Tax Credit.

Summary: The Personal Income Tax Law, for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2019, allows a refundable young child tax credit against the taxes imposed under that law in a specified amount, not to exceed \$1,000 per each qualified taxpayer per taxable year. Current law defines "qualified taxpayer" for this purpose to include an eligible individual who has a qualified child, as defined, and is allowed an earned income tax credit, as specified. Existing law requires amounts of the credit in excess of the qualified taxpayer's tax liability to be credited against other amounts due, if any, and the balance, if any, to be paid to the qualified taxpayer from the Tax Relief and Refund Account, a continuously appropriated fund. This bill would expand the definition of "qualified taxpayer" to also include an eligible individual who has a qualified child and would have received an earned income tax credit but for the fact that the individual has no earned income, as defined, for the taxable year.

- SB 952** (Limón) Pupil instruction: dual language programs: Expanding Culture and Language Learning in Schools Grant Program.
- Support** **Summary:** Would, subject to an appropriation, establish the Expanding Culture and Language Learning in Schools Grant Program with the goal of growing capacity for high-quality dual language learning in preschools, transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, as provided. The bill would require the State Department of Education, commencing October 1, 2023, to award a minimum of 20 one-time grants of up to \$750,000 per grant to school districts, county offices of education, certain charter schools, and specified preschool programs, as provided. The bill would require the department to, among other things, determine grant award selection criteria, review applications, award grants, identify and determine how data will be collected and shared with the public, and meet quarterly with grantees to share practices and resources and resolve implementation issues.
- SB 1058** (Durazo) Disability insurance: paid family leave: applicant data.
- Support** **Summary:** Current law establishes, within the state disability insurance program, a family temporary disability insurance program, also known as the paid family leave program, for the provision of wage replacement benefits to workers who take time off work to care for a seriously ill family member, to bond with a minor child within one year of birth or placement, or to participate in a qualifying exigency related to the covered active duty or call to covered active duty of the individual's spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent in the United States Armed Forces, as specified. Under current law, workers are required to pay contributions to the Unemployment Compensation Disability Fund, and those funds are continuously appropriated for the purpose of providing disability benefits and making payment of administrative expenses. This bill would require the Employment Development Department to collect data regarding the race and ethnicity of individuals who claim disability benefits under those programs. Because this bill would require the expenditure of funds from the fund for a new administrative purpose, the bill would make an appropriation.
- SB 1083** (Skinner) CalWORKs: pregnancy and homeless assistance.
- Support** **Summary:** Current law requires \$47 per month to be paid to a pregnant person qualified for CalWORKs aid to meet special needs resulting from pregnancy, and requires county human services agencies to refer all these recipients of aid to a local provider of the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. This bill would, among other things, also require county human services agencies to refer those recipients to perinatal home visiting services administered by county public health departments.