

ACSS Legislative Report 8/9/2024

Sponsor

AB 1137 (Jones-Sawyer D) Excluded employees.

Current Text: Amended: 7/3/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/15/2023 **Last Amend:** 7/3/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Human Resources to establish and adjust salary ranges for each class of position in the state civil service, subject to any merit limits contained in the California Constitution. Existing law provides that, after completion of the first year in a position, an employee shall receive a merit salary adjustment during each year when they meet the standards of efficiency, as prescribed by the department. Existing law, the Ralph C. Dills Act, governs collective bargaining between the state and recognized state public employee organizations. The act defines "state employee" for purposes of the act and excludes certain employees from that definition, including managerial employees, supervisory employees, and confidential employees. This bill would require an employee who is excluded from the definition of "state employee" to be informed in writing of a merit salary adjustment denial 10 working days before the proposed effective date of the adjustment.

Memo:

Sponsor letter sent to Author -- 3/13/23 Sponsor letter sent to Asm. PE&R -- 3/13/23 Sponsor letter sent to Asm. APPR -- 4/14/23 Sponsor letter sent to Sen. LPER -- 7/1/24 Sponsor letter sent to Sen. APPR -- 7/21/24

Support

AB 236 (<u>Holden</u> D) Health care coverage: provider directories.

Current Text: Amended: 6/27/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/13/2023 **Last Amend:** 6/27/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires a health care service plan and a health insurer that contracts with providers for alternative rates of payment to publish and maintain a provider directory or directories with information on contracting providers that deliver health care services enrollees or insureds, and requires a health care service plan and health insurer to regularly update its printed and online provider directory or directories, as specified. Existing law authorizes the departments to require a plan or insurer to provide coverage for all covered health care services provided to an enrollee or insured who reasonably relied on materially inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information contained in a health plan's provider directory or directories. This bill would require a plan or insurer to annually verify and delete inaccurate listings from its provider directories, and would require a provider directory to be 60% accurate on July 1, 2025, with increasing required percentage accuracy benchmarks to be met each year until the directories are 95% accurate on or before July 1, 2028. The bill would subject a plan or insurer to administrative penalties for failure to meet the prescribed benchmarks. The bill would require a plan or insurer to arrange care and provide coverage for all covered health care services provided to an enrollee or insured who reasonably relied on inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information contained in a health plan or policy's provider directory or directories and to reimburse the

provider the contracted amount for those services. The bill would prohibit a provider from collecting an additional amount from an enrollee or insured other than the applicable in-network cost sharing. The bill would require a plan or insurer to provide information about in-network providers to enrollees and insureds upon request, and would limit the cost-sharing amounts an enrollee or insured is required to pay for services from those providers under specified circumstances. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Memo:

Support letter sent to Author -- 7/31/24 Support letter sent to Sen. Appr -- 7/31/24

ACA 22 (Jones-Sawyer D) Legislature: retirement.

Current Text: Introduced: 3/14/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 3/14/2024

Status: 3/14/2024-Read first time. To print.

Location: 3/14/2024-A. PRINT

Summary: The California Constitution permits Members of the Legislature elected or serving after November 1, 1990, to participate only in the federal Social Security System, and prohibits those Members from accruing any other pension or retirement benefits as a result of service in the Legislature. This measure would authorize a Member of the Legislature who is first elected to the Legislature for a term commencing on or after December 3, 2024, to elect to participate in the Public Employees' Retirement System in any state retirement plan in which a majority of the employees of the state may participate. The measure would provide that retirement credit earned by a person through service in another state or local government agency may qualify for credit in that state retirement plan. The measure would permit the State to pay only the employer's contribution necessary for participation in the Public Employees' Retirement System.

SB 1202 (Newman D) Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: reports: assaults.

Current Text: Amended: 6/10/2024 httml pdf

Introduced: 2/15/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/10/2024

Status: 8/7/2024-August 7 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.

Location: 8/7/2024-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Summary: Existing law establishes the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and sets forth its powers and duties regarding the administration of correctional facilities and the care and custody of inmates and wards. Existing law requires the department to establish a statewide policy on operational procedures for the handling of threats made by inmates or wards, and threats made by family members of inmates or wards, against department staff that includes methods to ensure that department staff members are advised of those threats, as specified, and requires those threats to be thoroughly investigated. This bill would require the department to make a report regarding assaults, as defined, against employees, quarterly to all bargaining units at the department, and annually to the Legislature and the chairs of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review and the Assembly Committee on Budget. The bill would require the reports to appropriately protect the confidentiality of patients, inmates, and employees and to include certain information, including the date of the assault and the name of the facility where the incident occurred.

Watch

AB 108 (Gabriel D) Budget Act of 2024.

Current Text: Amended: 6/22/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/9/2023 **Last Amend:** 6/22/2024

Status: 7/1/2024-Re-referred to Com. on B. & F.R.

Location: 7/1/2024-S. BUDGET & F.R.

Summary: The Budget Act of 2024 made appropriations for the support of state government for the 2024–25 fiscal year. This bill would amend the Budget Act of 2024 by amending, adding, and repealing items of appropriation and making other changes. This bill contains other related provisions.

items of appropriation and making other changes. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 310 (Arambula D) State Department of State Hospitals: civil service psychiatrists.

Current Text: Amended: 6/17/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/26/2023 **Last Amend:** 6/17/2024

Status: 8/6/2024-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/6/2024-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #206 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Existing law establishes the State Department of State Hospitals within the California Health and Human Services Agency and provides the department with jurisdiction over specified facilities for the care and treatment of persons with mental health disorders. This bill would require, on or before January 31, 2026, the State Department of State Hospitals to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Budget and the Assembly Committee on Budget providing amounts expended during the 2024–25 fiscal year, pursuant to Article 10.15 of the Bargaining Unit 16 Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California and the Union of American Physicians and Dentists, as specified. The bill would make that provision inoperative on June 30, 2026, and would repeal this provision as of January 1, 2027.

AB 518 (Wicks D) Paid family leave: eligibility: care for designated persons.

Current Text: Amended: 9/8/2023 html pdf

Introduced: 2/7/2023 **Last Amend:** 9/8/2023

Status: 9/14/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on

9/13/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 9/14/2023-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Existing unemployment compensation disability law requires workers to pay contribution rates based on, among other things, wages received in employment and benefit disbursement, for payment into the Unemployment Compensation Disability Fund, a special fund in the State Treasury. That fund is continuously appropriated for the purpose of providing disability benefits and making payment of expenses in administering those provisions. Existing law establishes, within the above 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 for up to 8 weeks to workers who take time off work for prescribed purposes, including to care for a seriously ill family member. Existing law defines terms for its purposes, including "family care leave" and "family member." This bill would expand eligibility for benefits under the paid family leave program to include individuals who take time off work to care for a seriously ill designated person. The bill would define "designated person" to mean any individual related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship. The bill would authorize the employee to identify the designated person when they file a claim for benefits. The bill would make conforming changes to the definitions of the terms "family care leave" and "family member." The bill would make these changes operative on and after November 1, 2024. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 775 (Arambula D) Personal services contracts: state employees: physician registry for state hospitals.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/13/2023 html pdf

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Status: 9/1/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

on 7/3/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 9/1/2023-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Existing law, the State Civil Service Act, regulates employment with the state and vests in the Department of Human Resources all powers, duties, and authority necessary to operate the state civil service system. Existing law permits the use of personal services contracts for purposes of cost savings when specified conditions are met, including when the potential economic advantage of contracting is not outweighed by the public's interest in having a particular function performed directly by the state government. Existing law establishes the State Department of State Hospitals within the California Health and Human Services Agency, and provides the department with jurisdiction over specified facilities for the care and treatment of persons with mental health disorders, including the Patton State Hospital. This bill would require the State Department of State Hospitals to establish, by January 1, 2025, a physician registry for the Patton State Hospital to be composed of members of State Bargaining Unit 16, under a 3-year pilot program. The bill would require the department to conduct and post on its internet website a semiannual survey of managers and employees to determine the efficacy of the registry. By January 10, 2026, and each year thereafter for the duration of the pilot program, the bill would require the department to submit a report to the Legislature that includes a study of the effectiveness of the registry to determine if the registry compensation rates were successful in addressing the operational needs for flexible services at a lower cost than contract registries. The bill would make the implementation of its provisions contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act or other statute, and would repeal its provisions on January 1, 2029. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 1246 (Nguyen, Stephanie D) Public employees' retirement: Public Employees' Retirement System

optional settlements.

Current Text: Amended: 6/18/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/16/2023 **Last Amend:** 6/18/2024

Status: 6/19/2024-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/19/2024-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #101 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: The Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL) establishes the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) to provide pension and other benefits to members of PERS. Existing law permits a member of PERS who retires on or before December 31, 2017, to elect from among several optional settlements for the purpose of structuring the member's retirement allowance. Existing law also permits a member of PERS who retires on or after January 1, 2018, to elect from among several other optional settlements for the purpose of structuring their retirement allowance. Existing law prohibits a member who elects to receive specified optional settlements from changing the member's optional settlement and designated beneficiary after election of an optional settlement unless a specified event occurs, including the death of a beneficiary who predeceased the member, a dissolution of marriage or a legal separation in which the judgment dividing the community property awards the total interest in the retirement system to the retired member, or in an annulment of marriage in which the court confirms the annulment. This bill would, commencing January 1, 2025, 2026, permit a member who elected to receive a specified optional settlement at retirement, if the member's former spouse was named as beneficiary and a legal judgment awards only a portion of the interest in the retirement system to the retired member, to elect to add their new spouse as the beneficiary of the member's interest, subject to meeting certain conditions. This bill would authorize a member to elect this option only once and would preclude elections that would be in derogation of the former spouse's interest in the retirement system. The bill would preclude elections that would result in additional costs to the employer. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 1254 (Flora R) State employees: compensation: firefighters.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/16/2023 html pdf

Introduced: 2/16/2023

Status: 9/1/2023-In committee: Held under submission. (Set for hearing on 08/15/2024)

Location: 8/9/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing law provides that in order for the state to recruit skilled firefighters for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, it is the policy of the state to consider prevailing salaries and benefits prior to making salary recommendations. Existing law requires the Department of Human Resources, in order to provide comparability in pay, to take into consideration the salary and benefits of other jurisdictions employing 75 or more full-time firefighters who work in California. This bill would require the state to pay firefighters who are rank-and-file members of State Bargaining Unit 8, employed by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, within 15% of the average salary for corresponding ranks in 20 listed California fire departments. The bill would require the state and the exclusive representative for State Bargaining Unit 8 to jointly survey annually and calculate the estimated average salaries for those fire departments. The bill would provide that when determining compensation for uniformed classifications of the department, it is the policy of the state to consider the salary of corresponding ranks within the comparable jurisdictions listed, as well as other factors, including internal comparisons. The bill would require any salary increase for firefighters under these provisions to be implemented through a memorandum of understanding, in accordance with specified procedures governing collective bargaining agreements. The bill would include related legislative findings.

AB 1567 (Garcia D) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024.

Current Text: Amended: 5/26/2023 httml pdf

Introduced: 2/17/2023 **Last Amend:** 5/26/2023

Status: 5/22/2024-Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Location: 5/22/2024-S. N.R. & W.

Summary: The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, approved by the voters as Proposition 68 at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary election, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,100,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. Article XVI of the California Constitution requires measures authorizing general obligation bonds to specify the single object or work to be funded by the bonds and further requires a bond act to be approved by a 2/3 vote of each house of the Legislature and a majority of the voters. This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$15,995,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, clean energy, and workforce development programs. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 1812 (Gabriel D) Budget Act of 2024.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/10/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/10/2024

Status: 1/16/2024-Referred to Com. on BUDGET.

Location: 1/16/2024-A. BUDGET

Summary: This bill would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2024-25

fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 1997 (McKinnor D) Teachers' Retirement Law.

Current Text: Amended: 4/1/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/30/2024 **Last Amend:** 4/1/2024

Status: 6/24/2024-In committee: Referred to suspense file.

Location: 6/24/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Teachers' Retirement Law, establishes the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) and creates the Defined Benefit Program of the State Teachers' Retirement Plan, which provides a defined benefit to members of the program, based on final compensation, creditable service, and age at retirement, subject to certain variations. STRS is administered by the Teachers' Retirement Board. Existing law requires employers and employees to make contributions to the system based on the member's creditable compensation. Existing law defines terms for the purposes of STRS. Existing law defines "annualized pay rate" to mean the salary or wages, as described, a person could earn during a school term for an assignment if creditable service were performed for that assignment on a full-time basis. Existing law establishes a pay rate when creditable service is not performed on a fulltime basis because a member is performing activities pursuant to specified law. This bill would redefine "annualized pay rate" to mean the salary, as described, a person could earn during a school term in a position subject to membership if creditable service were performed for that position on a full-time basis, to be determined pursuant to a publicly available pay schedule by a prescribed method. The bill, if no annualized pay rate exists for a position subject to membership, would deem all compensation earned in that position "supplemental pay," as prescribed. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 2284 (Grayson D) County employees' retirement: compensation.

Current Text: Amended: 6/27/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/8/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/27/2024

Status: 6/27/2024-Read second time and amended. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/27/2024-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #141 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Existing law, the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), generally requires a public retirement system, as defined, to modify its plan or plans to comply with the act. PEPRA, among other things, establishes new defined benefit formulas and caps on pensionable compensation. The County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) authorizes counties to establish retirement systems pursuant to its provisions in order to provide pension benefits to their employees. CERL generally vests management of each retirement system in a board of retirement. CERL defines "compensation earnable" by a member, for the purpose of calculating benefits, to mean the average compensation, as determined by the board, for the period under consideration upon the basis of the average number of days ordinarily worked by persons in the same grade or class of positions during the period, and the same rate of pay, subject to certain exceptions. This bill would authorize a retirement system, to the extent it has not defined "grade" in the above-described circumstances, to define "grade" to mean a number of employees considered together because they share similarities in job duties, schedules, unit recruitment requirements, work location, collective bargaining unit, or other logical work-related group or class, as specified. The bill would specify that these provisions shall not become operative in a county until the board of supervisors of that county, by resolution adopted by majority vote, makes the provisions applicable in that county. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 2335 (McKinnor D) Public employment: compensation and classification.

Current Text: Amended: 5/16/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/12/2024 **Last Amend:** 5/16/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: The California Constitution provides that the civil service includes every officer and employee of the state, except as provided, and requires that in the civil service, permanent appointment and

promotion be made under a merit-based system ascertained by competitive examination. Existing law, the State Civil Service Act, prescribes a comprehensive personnel system for the state with appointments to be based on merit and fitness established by competitive tests. Existing law states the purposes of the State Civil Service Act, including, among others, to provide a comprehensive personnel system in which positions involving comparable duties and responsibilities are similarly classified and compensated. This bill would expand that purpose to include that the compensation relationship between state civil positions with comparable duties and responsibilities is maintained. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 2421 (Low D) Employer-employee relations: confidential communications.

Current Text: Amended: 6/17/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/13/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/17/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing law that governs the labor relations of public employees and employers, including the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, the Ralph C. Dills Act, and provisions relating to judicial employees, public schools, higher education, the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, the Sacramento Regional Transit District, and other public transit employees, prohibits employers from taking certain actions relating to employee organizations. This includes imposing or threatening to impose reprisals on employees, discriminating or threatening to discriminate against employees, or otherwise interfering with, restraining, or coercing employees because of their exercise of their guaranteed rights. Those provisions further prohibit denying to employee organizations the rights guaranteed to them by existing law. This bill would also prohibit a local public agency employer, a state employer, a judicial employer, a public school employer, a higher education employer, or the district from questioning any employee or employee representative regarding communications made in confidence between an employee and an employee representative in connection with representation relating to any matter within the scope of the recognized employee organization's representation. The bill would provide that communications between an employee and their employee representative would not be confidential if, at any time, the representative was a witness or party to any of the events forming the basis of a potential administrative disciplinary or criminal investigation.

AB 2455 (Gabriel D) Whistleblower protection: state and local government procedures.

Current Text: Amended: 6/27/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/13/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/27/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing law authorizes a city, county, or city and county auditor or controller to maintain a whistleblower hotline to receive calls from persons who have information regarding fraud, waste, or abuse by local government employees, as specified. Existing law authorizes the county auditor to refer calls received on the whistleblower hotline to the appropriate government authority for review and possible investigation. During the initial review of a call, existing law requires the auditor, controller, or other appropriate governmental agency to hold in confidence information disclosed through the whistleblower hotline, as specified. Upon receiving specific information that an employee or local government has engaged in an improper government activity, existing law authorizes a city or county auditor to conduct an investigative audit of the matter, as specified. Existing law requires the identity of the individual or individuals reporting the improper government activity, and the subject employee or employees to be kept confidential. Existing law defines "fraud, waste, or abuse" to mean any activity by a local agency or employee that is undertaken in the performance of the employee's official duties, as described, that is in violation of any local, state, or federal law or regulation relating to, among other things, corruption. This bill would also authorize a city, county, or city and county auditor or controller to maintain a whistleblower hotline to receive calls from persons who have information regarding improper governmental activity, and would recast information regarding fraud, waste, or abuse by local government employees as improper governmental activity. The bill would instead authorize a city or county auditor or controller, or auditor's or controller's designee, to conduct an investigative audit of the matter upon receiving specific information that an employee or local government has engaged in a fraud, waste, or abuse or improper governmental activity, as specified. The bill would also require the identity of the individual or individuals reporting the fraud, waste, or abuse, and the subject employee or employees to be kept confidential. The bill would expand the above-described duties and authorizations to the auditor's or controller's designee, as specified. The bill would revise the definition of "fraud, waste, or abuse" to also define "improper governmental activity," and expand the scope of those terms to include activity by a local agency, employee, or contractor or subcontractor.

AB 2494 (Calderon D) Employer notification: continuation coverage.

Current Text: Amended: 7/3/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/13/2024 **Last Amend:** 7/3/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, and known as COBRA, requires that certain employers provide former employees with continuation of benefits. COBRA requires that an employee be notified of the continuation of coverage for which the employee may be eligible upon certain qualifying events, including termination. Existing law requires all employers, whether public or private, to provide employees, upon termination, notification of all continuation, disability extension, and conversion coverage options under any employer-sponsored coverage for which the employee may remain eligible. This bill would require all employers, whether public or private, to provide a notice to employees, following termination or reduction in hours, as specified, stating that the employee may be eligible for coverage under COBRA and that the employee will receive an election notice from the plan administrator or group health plan, as provided. The bill would authorize an employer to provide the notification via hard copy or via email to an employee's email account if the employee elects to receive electronic statements or materials, as prescribed. The bill would prohibit an employer from discharging or taking other adverse action against an employee who does not elect to receive electronic statements or materials.

AB 2538 (Grayson D) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: seasonal firefighters.

Current Text: Amended: 6/27/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/13/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/27/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: The California Constitution establishes certain conditions of employment for state officers and employees. The California Constitution further permits a temporary appointment to be made to a state position if there is not an employment list, and prohibits a person from serving under the position of temporary appointment for longer than 9 months in 12 consecutive months. Existing law establishes that it is the policy of the state that the normal workweek of permanent employees in fire suppression classes of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) not exceed 84 hours per week. Existing law authorizes work in excess of the designated normal workweek to be compensated in cash or time off in accordance with department regulations. This bill would require the Department of Human Resources, the State Personnel Board, and any other relevant state agency to take the necessary actions to ensure that CAL-FIRE may employ seasonal firefighters for longer than 9 months in a consecutive 12-month period to confront emergency fire conditions and personnel shortages. The bill would require the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, in any consecutive 12-month period, to make a determination about current staffing levels for firefighters, as prescribed, and would require Cal-FIRE to employ seasonal firefighters through the use of an employment list. The bill would require CAL-FIRE to notify specified legislative committees and the Legislative Analyst's Office within 30 days of the director's determination. The bill would require CAL-FIRE, beginning January 1, 2025, to work with the Department of Human Resources to implement these changes. The bill would also require the Legislative Analyst's Office to provide a report to the Legislature that assesses the impacts and outcomes of the new authority, as specified. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2031. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 2556 (Jackson D) Behavioral health and wellness screenings: notice.

Current Text: Enrollment: 8/8/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/14/2024 Last Amend: 6/11/2024

Status: 8/8/2024-Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.

Location: 8/8/2024-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. This bill would require a health care service plan, except as specified, or health insurer to provide to enrollees and insureds a written or electronic notice regarding the benefits of a behavioral health and wellness screening, as defined, for children and adolescents 8 to 18 years of age. The bill would require a health care service plan or insurer to provide the notice annually. Because a violation of the bill's requirements relative to a health care service plan would be crimes, the bill would

impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 2872 (Calderon D) Department of Insurance: sworn members: compensation.

Current Text: Amended: 4/10/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/15/2024 **Last Amend:** 4/10/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-In committee: Referred to APPR suspense file.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, CABALLERO, ANNA, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the State Civil Service Act, regulates employment with the state and vests in the Department of Human Resources all powers, duties, and authorities necessary to operate the state civil service system in accordance with Article VII of the California Constitution, the Government Code, the merit principle, and applicable rules duly adopted by the State Personnel Board. Existing law requires the department to establish and adjust salary ranges for each class of position in the state civil service, as specified. Existing law requires the state, in order to recruit and retain the highest qualified employees, to pay sworn members of the California Highway Patrol who are rank-and-file members of State Bargaining Unit 5 the estimated average total compensation for each corresponding rank for the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, San Diego Police Department, Oakland Police Department, and San Francisco Police Department, as specified. This bill would require, notwithstanding any other law, that sworn members of the Department of Insurance who are rank-and-file members of State Bargaining Unit 7 be paid the same compensation as is paid to the corresponding rank-and-file sworn peace officer employees of the Department of Justice. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 2885 (Bauer-Kahan D) Artificial intelligence.

Current Text: Amended: 4/18/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/15/2024 Last Amend: 4/18/2024

Status: 8/5/2024-From Consent Calendar. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/5/2024-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #185 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Existing law establishes the Government Operations Agency, which is governed by the Secretary of Government Operations. Existing law requires the Secretary of Government Operations to develop a coordinated plan to, among other things, evaluate the impact of the proliferation of deepfakes, defined to mean audio or visual content that has been generated or manipulated by artificial intelligence that would falsely appear to be authentic or truthful and that features depictions of people appearing to say or do things they did not say or do without their consent, on state government, California-based businesses, and residents of the state. Existing law establishes within the Government Operations Agency the Department of Technology, which is supervised by the Director of Technology. Existing law requires the Department of Technology to conduct, in coordination with other interagency bodies as it deems appropriate, a comprehensive inventory of all high-risk automated decision systems that have been proposed for use, development, or procurement by, or are being used, developed, or procured by, any state agency. Existing law defines an "automated decision system" as a computational process derived from machine learning, statistical modeling, data analytics, or artificial intelligence that issues simplified output, including a score, classification, or recommendation, that is used to assist or replace human discretionary decisionmaking and materially impacts natural persons. Existing law requires each local agency, as defined, to provide specified information to the public before approving an economic development subsidy, as defined, within its jurisdiction, and to, among other things, hold hearings and issue annual reports on those subsidies, as provided. Existing law requires those reports to contain, among other things, information about any net job loss or replacement due to the use of automation, artificial intelligence, or other technologies, if known. This bill would define the term "artificial intelligence" for the purposes of the above-described provisions to mean an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 2914 (Bonta D) Health care coverage: essential health benefits.

Current Text: Amended: 4/10/2024 httml pdf

Introduced: 2/15/2024 **Last Amend:** 4/10/2024

Status: 8/6/2024-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/6/2024-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #263 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, requires the Department of Managed Health Care to license and regulate health care service plans. Existing law requires the

Department of Insurance to regulate health insurers. Existing law requires an individual or small group health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2017, to include, at a minimum, coverage for essential health benefits pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Existing law requires a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy to cover the same health benefits that the benchmark plan, the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Small Group HMO 30 plan, offered during the first quarter of 2014, as specified. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to review California's essential health benefits benchmark plan and establish a new benchmark plan for the 2027 plan year. The bill would limit the applicability of the current benchmark plan benefits to plan years on or before the 2027 plan year.

AB 3025 (Valencia D) County employees' retirement: disallowed compensation: benefit adjustments.

Current Text: Amended: 6/27/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/16/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/27/2024

Status: 6/27/2024-Read second time and amended. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 6/27/2024-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #136 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Existing law, the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), generally requires a public retirement system, as defined, to modify its plan or plans to comply with the act. PEPRA, among other things, establishes new defined benefit formulas and caps on pensionable compensation. The County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) authorizes counties to establish retirement systems pursuant to its provisions in order to provide pension benefits to their employees. CERL generally vests management of each retirement system in a board of retirement. CERL authorizes a board of retirement to correct errors in the calculation of a retired member's monthly allowances or other benefits under CERL in certain circumstances, including if the member caused their final compensation to be improperly increased or otherwise overstated at the time of retirement, and the system applied that overstated amount as the basis for calculating the member's monthly retirement allowance or benefits under CERL, subject to certain limitations. The Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL) also authorizes its board of administration to adjust retirement payments due to errors or omissions, including for cases in which the retirement systems that the benefits of a member or annuitant are, or would be, based on disallowed compensation that conflicts with PEPRA and other specified laws and is thus impermissible. This bill would require a retirement system established under CERL, upon determining that the compensation reported for a member is disallowed compensation, to require the employer, as defined, to discontinue reporting the disallowed compensation. The bill would require, for an active member, the retirement system to credit all employer contributions made on the disallowed compensation against future contributions to the benefit of the employer that reported the disallowed compensation, and return any member contribution paid by, or on behalf of, that member, to the member directly or indirectly through the employer that reported the disallowed compensation, except in certain circumstances in which a system has already initiated a process, as defined, to recalculate compensation. The bill would require the system, for a retired member, survivor, or beneficiary whose final compensation was predicated upon the disallowed compensation, to credit the employer contributions made on the disallowed compensation against future contributions, to the benefit of the employer that reported the disallowed compensation, to return any member contributions paid by, or on behalf of, that member, to the member directly, and to permanently adjust the benefit of the affected retired member, survivor, or beneficiary to reflect the exclusion of the disallowed compensation. The bill would establish other conditions required to be satisfied with respect to a retired member, survivor, or beneficiary when final compensation was predicated upon disallowed compensation, including, among others, requiring a specified payment to be made by the employer that reported contributions on the disallowed compensation to the retired member, survivor, or beneficiary, as appropriate. The bill would authorize a retirement system that has initiated a process prior to January 1, 2024, to permanently adjust the benefit of the affected retired member, survivor, or beneficiary to reflect the exclusion of the disallowed compensation to use that system in lieu of specified provisions that the bill would enact. The bill would also require certain information regarding the relevant retired member, survivor, or beneficiary needed for purposes of these provisions to be kept confidential by the recipient

SB 74 (Dodd D) Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development.

Current Text: Amended: 6/13/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/11/2023 **Last Amend:** 6/13/2024

Status: 8/7/2024-August 7 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.

Location: 8/7/2024-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Summary: Existing law, until January 1, 2029, establishes the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development in state government within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to study, test, and advise regarding procurement of emerging technologies and tools in order to more effectively prevent and suppress wildfires within the state. For those purposes, existing law requires the office to,

among other things, develop a balanced, multimodal research and development program designed to identify, research, test, and evaluate emerging technologies and tools designed to improve the state's preparation for, and response to, wildfires in the state, as specified. This bill would delete the January 1, 2029, sunset date described above.

SB 106 (Wiener D) Budget Acts of 2022 and 2023.

Current Text: Amended: 4/8/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/18/2023 Last Amend: 4/8/2024

Status: 4/15/2024-Re-referred to Com. on BUDGET.

Location: 4/15/2024-A. BUDGET

Summary: The Budget Act of 2022 and the Budget Act of 2023 made appropriations for the support of state government for the 2022–23 and 2023–24 fiscal years. This bill would amend the Budget Act of 2022 and the Budget Act of 2023 by amending, adding, and repealing items of appropriation and making other changes. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a Budget Bill.

SB 107 (Wiener D) Budget Act of 2024.

Current Text: Amended: 6/10/2024 httml pdf

Introduced: 1/18/2023 Last Amend: 6/10/2024

Status: 7/3/2024-Re-referred to Com. on BUDGET pursuant to Assembly Rule 97.

Location: 7/3/2024-A. BUDGET

Summary: This bill would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2024–25

fiscal year. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a Budget Bill.

SB 130 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Employment.

Current Text: Amended: 6/26/2023
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Introduced: 1/18/2023 **Last Amend:** 6/26/2023

Status: 6/29/2023-Re-referred to Com. on BUDGET.

Location: 6/29/2023-A. BUDGET

Summary: Existing law, the State Civil Service Act, regulates employment with the state and vests in the Department of Human Resources all powers, duties, and authorities necessary to operate the state civil service system in accordance with Article VII of the California Constitution, the Government Code, the merit principle, and applicable rules duly adopted by the State Personnel Board. Existing law requires, except as specified, that the Controller establish and maintain a payroll of all persons employed by every state agency. Existing law requires, unless otherwise provided by law, that the salaries of state officers be paid monthly out of the General Fund. This bill, instead, would require the salaries of state officers and employees to be paid out of the General Fund, or another recognized state fund which a respective employee's position is funded, on a uniform payroll cycle established by the department.

SB 171 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Employment.

Current Text: Amended: 6/22/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/18/2023 **Last Amend:** 6/22/2024

Status: 7/1/2024-Re-referred to Com. on BUDGET pursuant to Assembly Rule 97.

Location: 7/1/2024-A. BUDGET

Summary: Existing law, the State Civil Service Act, regulates employment with the state and vests in the Department of Human Resources all powers, duties, and authorities necessary to operate the state civil service system in accordance with Article VII of the California Constitution, the Government Code, the merit principle, and applicable rules duly adopted by the State Personnel Board. Former law required that, unless otherwise provided by law, the salaries of state officers be paid monthly out of the General Fund. Existing law, operative July 10, 2023, requires the salaries of state officers and employees to be paid out of the General Fund, or another recognized state fund that funds a respective employee's position, on a uniform payroll cycle established by the department. Various provisions of existing law, relating to conflicts with memorandums of understanding, pay and benefits provisions relating to military service, travel reimbursement claims, salary classification, workweek groups, sick leave, nonindustrial disability leave, and layoffs, are inconsistent with the implementation of a uniform payroll cycle that is not monthly. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a bill providing for appropriations related to the Budget Bill.

SB 896 (Dodd D) Generative Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act.

Current Text: Amended: 7/3/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/3/2024 **Last Amend:** 7/3/2024

Status: 8/7/2024-August 7 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.

Location: 8/7/2024-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the Secretary of Government Operations to develop a coordinated plan to, among other things, investigate the feasibility of, and obstacles to, developing standards and technologies for state departments to determine digital content provenance. For the purpose of informing that coordinated plan, existing law requires the secretary to evaluate, among other things, the impact of the proliferation of deepfakes, defined to mean audio or visual content that has been generated or manipulated by artificial intelligence that would falsely appear to be authentic or truthful and that features depictions of people appearing to say or do things they did not say or do without their consent, on state government, California-based businesses, and residents of the state. This bill, the Generative Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act, would, among other things, require the Government Operations Agency, the Department of Technology, the Office of Data and Innovation, and the California Privacy Protection Agency to produce a State of California Benefits and Risk of Generative Artificial Intelligence Report that includes certain items, including an examination of the most significant, potentially beneficial uses for deployment of generative artificial intelligence tools by the state, and would require those entities to update the report, as prescribed. The bill would require the Office of Emergency Services, the California Cybersecurity Integration Center, and the State Threat Assessment Center every 2 years to perform a joint risk analysis of potential threats posed by the use of generative artificial intelligence to California's critical energy infrastructure, including those that could lead to mass casualty events and environmental emergencies. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 917 (Skinner D) Budget Act of 2024.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/10/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 1/10/2024

Status: 1/10/2024-Introduced. Read first time. Referred to Com. on B. & F.R. To print.

Location: 1/10/2024-S. BUDGET & F.R.

Summary: This bill would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2024-25

fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 1070 (Padilla D) State civil service: temporary assignments or loans.

Current Text: Amended: 6/20/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/12/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/20/2024

Status: 8/7/2024-August 7 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.

Location: 8/7/2024-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the State Civil Service Act, authorizes the State Personnel Board to prescribe rules governing the temporary assignment or loan of employees within an agency or between agencies, or between jurisdictions, for purposes that include enabling an agency to obtain expertise needed to meet a compelling program or management need. For the purpose of these provisions, public and private colleges and universities are considered educational agencies or jurisdictions. Existing law requires a temporary assignment or loan between educational agencies or jurisdictions to be extended for up to 2 additional years upon a finding by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, and with the approval of the executive officer of the State Personnel Board, that the extension is necessary, as specified. This bill would revise the abovedescribed provision to specify that it applies to a temporary assignment or loan between 2 educational agencies or jurisdictions. This bill would also require institutions of higher education, as defined, to be considered jurisdictions for the purposes of temporarily assigning or loaning employees to a government agency or temporarily receiving employees of a government agency. The bill would limit the period of an assignment or loan of employees under this provision to 2 years, subject to an additional 2-year extension, and would require the employee temporarily assigned or loaned to complete and file an ethics form with the State Personnel Board and the receiving agency, as specified. The bill would impose various limitations on the temporary assignment or loan of an employee, including, among other things, prohibiting an agency that receives an employee from an institution of higher education from authorizing that employee to control a civil service employee or their duties, position, or classification, as specified. The bill would require the State Personnel Board to develop uniform terms for temporary assignment or loan in consultation with the exclusive representative of employees. The bill would require a state agency that participates in a temporary assignment or loan with an institution of higher education to report specified information to the Department of Human Resources and would require the department to make that information publicly available on its internet website, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 1120 (Becker D) Health care coverage: utilization review.

Current Text: Amended: 7/8/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/13/2024 **Last Amend:** 7/8/2024

Status: 8/7/2024-August 7 set for first hearing. Placed on suspense file.

Location: 8/7/2024-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Calendar: 8/15/2024 Upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 1100

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS SUSPENSE, WICKS, BUFFY, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of disability insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law generally authorizes a health care service plan or disability insurer to use prior authorization and other utilization review or utilization management functions, under which a licensed physician or a licensed health care professional who is competent to evaluate specific clinical issues may approve, modify, delay, or deny requests for health care services based on medical necessity. Existing law requires a health care service plan or disability insurer, including those plans or insurers that delegate utilization review or utilization management functions to medical groups, independent practice associations, or to other contracting providers, to comply with specified requirements and limitations on their utilization review or utilization management functions. Existing law authorizes the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care or the Insurance Commissioner to assess an administrative penalty to a health care service plan or disability insurer, as applicable, for failure to comply with those requirements. This bill would require a health care service plan or disability insurer, including a specialized health care service plan or specialized health insurer, that uses an artificial intelligence, algorithm, or other software tool for the purpose of utilization review or utilization management functions, or that contracts with or otherwise works through an entity that uses that type of tool, to ensure compliance with specified requirements, including that the tool bases its determination on specified information and is fairly and equitably applied. Because a willful violation of these provisions by a health care service plan would be a crime, this bill would impose a statemandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 1240 (Alvarado-Gil D) Public Employees' Retirement System: contracting agencies: consolidation.

Current Text: Amended: 5/8/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/15/2024 **Last Amend:** 5/8/2024

Status: 8/8/2024-Read second time. Ordered to consent calendar.

Location: 8/7/2024-A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #137 ASSEMBLY CONSENT CALENDAR 1ST DAY SENATE BILLS

Summary: Existing law, the Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL), establishes the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), which provides a defined benefit to members of the system based on final compensation, credited service, and age at retirement, subject to certain variations. PERL authorizes any public agency to make its employees members of PERS by contract. Under existing law, when a contracting agency is succeeded by another agency, the successor agency may become a contracting agency of PERS. Existing law provides that if the successor agency contracts with PERS, the contract of the former agency shall merge with the contract of the succeeding agency. Existing law authorizes specified successor agencies to provide employees the defined benefit plan or formula that those employees received from their respective contracting agency employer prior to the consolidation. This bill would authorize a successor agency for the El Dorado County Fire Protection District and the Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District to provide employees the defined benefit plan or formula that those employees received from their respective employer prior to the annexation. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 1379 (Dodd D) Public Employees' Retirement Law: reinstatement: County of Solano.

Current Text: Amended: 6/20/2024 html pdf

Introduced: 2/16/2024 **Last Amend:** 6/20/2024

Status: 8/8/2024-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 8/8/2024-A. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/12/2024 #109 ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS

Summary: The Public Employees' Retirement Law creates the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), which provides pension and other benefits to members of the system and prescribes limitations on the service that retired members may perform, without the member reinstating in the system, for employers that participate in the system. The California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) also prescribes limitations on the activities of retired members of these retirement systems, which supersede the provisions of PERS with which they conflict. Under both PERS and PEPRA, a retired member is generally subject to a limit of 960 hours of employment within a calendar or fiscal year, depending on the administrator of the system, for specified employers without reinstating in the system. This bill would create an exception from the above-described limit for hours worked by a retired person in an appointment by the Solano County Sheriff's Office to perform a function or functions

regularly performed by a deputy sheriff, evidence technician, or communications operator, subject to meeting certain requirements. The bill would limit the number of appointments made under these provisions to 20. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2027. This bill contains other related provisions.

Total Measures: 35 Total Tracking Forms: 35