Legislative Report – End of the 2021 Session

Friday, September 10th was the last day for the 2021 legislative session. This year 2776 bills were introduced and as of today the bill status is:

Chaptered – 410
Enrolled – 694
Others to be determined – 1672

The Governor signed the largest budget in California’s history - $262.6 billion budget, with $80 million budget surplus. While both houses agreed on the budget – no conference committee this year - the legislature is still vetting and voting on trailer bills – implement the various categories in the budget. The last budget hearing was Tuesday, September 7th.

For detail on the budget:  
http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2021-22EN/#/BudgetSummary

Key accomplishments of the 2021 legislative session:

Passed legislation to support schools, teachers, and students as they return to in-person learning
Provided record levels of funding for K-14 and made increased investments in child care and universal transitional kindergarten
Community schools, SNC in CDE in Office of School Based Health and School Health Demonstration Project - $5 million over 5 years
Expanded healthcare to all Californians over age 60 regardless of immigration status
Transforms the behavioral health system for those 0-25 years
Higher education system – 5% base increase for UC and CSU and restored all reductions in the 2020 budget
Invested $8 billion in tax cuts for EITC for those making up to $75,000
Extended the moratorium on evictions and protections for tenants and small landlords
$5 billion in tax relief and grants to help small businesses
$12 billion to address homelessness and housing
Closing the digital divide with a $6 billion investment in broadband Investment
Numerous trailer bills to address climate, environmental, water and wildfire preparedness and response

I have attached a bill folder for your review; we tracked 33 bills:
Supported 11 and opposed one:

School health issues:
AB 309 (Gabriel) Pupil mental health: model referral protocols – SUPPORT
Enrolled 9/9/2021
AB 387 (Garcia, C) – Menstrual products – SUPPORT
Enrolled 9/9/2021
SB 682 (Rubio) Childhood chronic health conditions: racial disparities
SUPPORT – enrolled 9/9/2021
SB 742 (Pan) – Vaccination sites: unlawful activities: obstructing, intimidating
or harassing - SUPPORT - Enrolled 9/8/2021
AB 815 (Rivas) school nurses: credentialing – OPPOSE - Enrolled 9/9/2021

Other bills of interest on their way to the governor’s desk:

AB 1015 (Rubio, Blanca) BRN: workforce planning: nursing programs
clinical placements
AB 1407 (Burke) Nurses: implicit bias courses
AB 1532 (Committee on Business & Professions) – Nursing
Extension of BRN sunset review – enrolled 9/9/2021

These bills that may reappear in January 2022:

AB 269 (Patterson) Nursing: licensure: renewal fees: reduced fee
AB 852 (Wood) Nurse Practitioners: scope of practice: practice
without standardized procedure
AB 410 (Fong) – Licensed registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses:
Nurse Licensure Compact

COVID ISSUES

While the state “opened up” in June, the legislature continued to primarily operate
remotely; there were several “breakthroughs” in the Capitol and even the Governor’s
office. Staff meetings were done via zoom and legislative hearings were conducted via
Livestream through the Assembly or Senate web pages. Throughout this year, the
legislature has not recommended “in-person attendance” due to physical distancing
requirements and limited seating provided for the press and public.

We remain in the throes of COVID with the Delta variant ravaging certain communities
and the unvaccinated. As noted previously, the Governor and the State Public Health
Officer issued several executive orders, proclamations, and guidance documents aimed at providing direction for businesses, schools, and the general public.

As of 9/12/2021:
California had 4,354,113 confirmed COVID cases
66,701 deaths
California has administered 47,908,225 vaccinations
Tests – 86,295,593 administrated – 4.7% positivity – 7 day

The legislature attempted to address the continuing COVID issues through legislation but both attempts fell through; as was stated by Assembly Member Low, “these issues take time”. It should also be noted when word leaked of the legislative attempts to mandate new requirements for the workplace and to “protect employers from lawsuits” a rally was held on Wednesday at the Capitol with the organizers saying “they wanted to let the lawmakers know of their opposition in case they tried to bring the bills back next year”.

LAUSD is the largest school district in California and the second largest in the country. On Thursday, Sept 13th they mandated the COVID vaccine for their students over the age of 12:

The student vaccine requirement will not take full effect until January. Students older than 12 would need to receive their first dose by Nov. 21st and their second dose by Dec. 19th, which is the start of the district's three-week winter break. But students in extracurricular programs, such as sports, face earlier deadlines: those eligible students must get their first dose by Oct. 3 and their second dose by "no later than October 31."

According to the plan voted on, "All other students must receive their first vaccine dose by no later than 30 days after their 12th birthday, and their second dose by no later than 8 weeks after their 12th birthday."

**National Issues**

President Biden issued a six-point plan on Thursday, September 9th:
Vaccinating the unvaccinated
Further protecting the vaccinated
Keeping schools safely open
Increasing testing & requiring masking
Protecting our economic recovery
Improving care for those with COVID 19

Vaccination or weekly testing for employers with 100+ employees
All federal workers and contractors must be vaccinated
Large entertainment venues must require proof of vaccinations or testing
for entry

Each point has detailed information – for the specifics see:  
https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/