End of the 2021 Legislative Session

Sunday, October 10th was the last day for the Governor to either sign or veto all the bills on his desk. This session 2,776, bills were introduced, 1,038 bills were chaptered with 66 bills vetoed.

COVID continued to impact the legislative session not only with the legislative measures being introduced but also how the public and legislators were affected. There were outbreaks among the legislative and Governor’s staff. All hearings held in the Capitol were televised and as last year most of the public comment was given remotely which was encouraged by the various committees.

The biggest political issue of the year was the recall of Newsom which was held September 14th; he was able to remain Governor with an approximate vote count of 67.7% to 37.3% (the official results won’t be certified until October 22nd).

Bills relating to nursing and school health issues:

AB 309 (Gabriel) Pupil mental health: model referral protocols
Chaptered - CDE to develop model referral protocols and post on CDE web site – support

AB 367 (Garcia, C) Menstrual products – Chaptered
Grades 6-12 to stock school’s restrooms with free menstrual products – support

AB 815 (Rivas) School nurses: credentialing - Chaptered
allows LEAs to develop and implement a school nurse credentialing program – opposed

AB 1015 (Rubio, Blanca) - Board of Registered Nursing:
workforce planning: nursing programs: clinical placements – Chaptered – require regional forecasts on clinical slots, shortages and develop a plan to address

AB 1407 (Burke) - Nurses: implicit bias courses –
Chaptered – requirement for participation in one hour training for graduation
AB 1532 (Committee on Business & Professions) Nursing
BRN Sunset Review – Chaptered – Support
Awaiting information on stakeholder groups for Sunset Review process – to be completed and approved by January 2023

SB 14 (Portantino) – Pupil health: school employee and pupil training: excused absences: youth mental and behavioral health - Chaptered – pupil can be excused from school to include mental or behavioral health issues -

SB 97 (Roth) – Pupil health: type 1 diabetes information: parent notification – Chaptered
CDE to develop info material by Jan 2023 for parents

SB 742 (Pan) - Vaccination sites: unlawful activities: obstructing, intimidating, or harassing – Chaptered
Must stay back 300 feet if not fined and/or jail for breaching “vaccination sites”

Governor Newsom also signed critical legislation on:
  Housing
  Homelessness
  Wildfires
  Education and student issues
  Broad band issues
  Health – Telehealth, COVID coverage
  Climate, environmental & water issues
  Domestic violence and gun safety
Note all the above issues were also addressed in the 2021-22 budget

COVID ISSUES

October 1st, California became the first state in the nation to mandate COVID vaccination for school entry -

With the state COVID mandate taking effect through regulations, the use of personal belief (PBEs) and religious exemptions will resurface. Only the
medical exemption is viable for other vaccinations required for school entry. Legislators are discussing possible legislation that will address the PBEs and religious exemptions.


President Biden on September 9th issued a series of proposals stipulating that not only public employees - [Executive Order on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees | The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/omb/coronavirus-response/coronavirus-2019-vaccination-executive-order/) and requesting private employers with 100 or more employees must also be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing - [President Biden’s COVID-19 Plan | The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/omb/coronavirus-response/coronavirus-2019-vaccination-executive-order/)

The plans include:
- Employers with 100 or more employees to mandate that their workers be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing
- Most federal employees and federal contractors, as well as most health care workers across the country, be vaccinated against COVID-19. Federal employees and contractors do not have an option for testing.

Biden said the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is developing an emergency temporary standard directed at private-sector businesses with 100 or more employees.


**FYI:**

California COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards:
The COVID19 Prevention ETS met on 9/23/2021
- https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/DoshReg/covid-19-emergency-standards/
Public comment was open until Oct 4th.

draft language of the proposed regulations: