

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.

Legislative Session Review

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 -
[https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/10/01/california-becomes-first-state-in-nation-
to-announce-covid-19-vaccine-requirements-for-schools/](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/10/01/california-becomes-first-state-in-nation-to-announce-covid-19-vaccine-requirements-for-schools/) - effective January
2022 according to the approved federal COVID requirements for children

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.

Also in July, California became first in the nation to mandate health care workers to be immunized or tested:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/07/26/california-implements-first-in-the-nation-measures-to-encourage-state-employees-and-health-care-workers-to-get-vaccinated/>

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](#)

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](#)

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.

[The Safer Federal Workforce Taskforce Releases Guidance on Biden's Federal Vaccine Mandates for Federal Employees and Contractors | Hodgson Russ LLP - JDSupra](#) - guidance on federal employees, visitors to federal buildings and contractors - federal employees must be vaccinated by November 22nd. Visitors to federal agencies must show a Vaccination Certification.

On October 7th, they released a White House Report:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Vaccination-Requirements-Report.pdf> - discusses the rationale behind mandatory COVID vaccinations. OSHA will be releasing ETS for those covered by the Executive Orders.

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:

https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/DoshReg/covid-19-emergency-standards/COVID-19_Prevention-Regulatory-Language-Discussion-DRAFT-AF.pdf