



**BLANNING & BAKER**

Associates, Inc.

**CSR Legislative Report  
2/9/2021**

**Watch**

- [AB 79](#)**      **([Ting D](#)) Budget Act of 2020.**  
**Current Text:** Amended: 1/25/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)  
**Introduced:** 12/7/2020  
**Last Amend:** 1/25/2021  
**Status:** 2/2/2021-Re-referred to Com. on B. & F.R.  
**Location:** 2/2/2021-S. BUDGET & F.R.  
**Summary:** The Budget Act of 2020 made appropriations for the support of state government for the 2020–21 fiscal year. This bill would amend the Budget Act of 2020 by adding items of appropriation and making other changes. This bill contains other related provisions.
- [AB 97](#)**      **([Nazarian D](#)) Insulin affordability.**  
**Current Text:** Introduced: 12/8/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)  
**Introduced:** 12/8/2020  
**Status:** 1/11/2021-Read first time.  
**Location:** 12/8/2020-A. PRINT  
**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. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2000, that covers prescription benefits to include coverage for insulin, if it is determined to be medically necessary. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to make insulin more affordable for Californians.
- [AB 238](#)**      **([Voepel R](#)) Vehicles: driver’s license renewal fees.**  
**Current Text:** Introduced: 1/13/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)  
**Introduced:** 1/13/2021  
**Status:** 1/28/2021-Referred to Com. on TRANS.  
**Location:** 1/28/2021-A. TRANS.  
**Summary:** Existing law requires an applicant for the renewal of a driver’s license to pay to the Department of Motor Vehicles a fee of \$30 for that renewal. Existing regulations provide for the annual increase of that fee based on the Consumer Price Index. This bill would, until January 1, 2026, waive the renewal fee for applicants who have reached the age of 65 years on the date of application and are seeking a noncommercial license.
- [AB 323](#)**      **([Kalra D](#)) Long-term health facilities.**  
**Current Text:** Introduced: 1/26/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)  
**Introduced:** 1/26/2021  
**Status:** 1/27/2021-From printer. May be heard in committee February 26.  
**Location:** 1/26/2021-A. PRINT  
**Summary:** The Long-Term Care, Health, Safety, and Security Act of 1973 generally requires the State Department of Public Health to license and regulate long-term health care facilities and to establish an inspection and reporting system to ensure that long-term health care facilities are in compliance with state statutes and regulations. The term “long-term health care facility” includes, among other types of facilities, a skilled nursing facility and intermediate care facility. This bill would redefine a class “AA” violation as a class “A” violation that the department determines to have been a substantial factor, as described, in the death of a resident of a long-term health care facility. The bill would increase the civil penalties for a class “A,” “AA,” or “B” violation by a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility, as specified. The bill would delete numerous references to the “patients” of a long-term health care facility. This bill contains other existing laws.
- [AB 383](#)**      **([Salas D](#)) Mental health: older adults.**  
**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/2/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)  
**Introduced:** 2/2/2021

**Status:** 2/3/2021-From printer. May be heard in committee March 5.

**Location:** 2/2/2021-A. PRINT

**Summary:** Existing law, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), an initiative measure enacted by the voters as Proposition 63 at the November 2, 2004, statewide general election, establishes the continuously appropriated Mental Health Services Fund to fund various county mental health programs, including the Adult and Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Act. Existing law authorizes the MHSA to be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Legislature if the amendments are consistent with, and further the purposes of, the MHSA, and also permits the Legislature to clarify procedures and terms of the MHSA by a majority vote. This bill would establish within the State Department of Health Care Services an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator to oversee mental health services for older adults. The bill would require that position to be funded with administrative funds from the Mental Health Services Fund. The bill would prescribe the functions of the administrator and its responsibilities, including, but not limited to, developing outcome and related indicators for older adults for the purpose of assessing the status of mental health services for older adults, monitoring the quality of programs for those adults, and guiding decisionmaking on how to improve those services. The bill would require the administrator to receive data from other state agencies and departments to implement these provisions, subject to existing state or federal confidentiality requirements. The bill would require the administrator to report to the entities that administer the MHSA on those outcome and related indicators by July 1, 2022, and would authorize the administrator to make the report available to the Legislature, upon request. The bill would also require the administrator to develop a strategy and standardized training for all county mental health personnel in order for the counties to assist the administrator in obtaining the data necessary to develop the outcome and related indicators. This bill contains other related provisions.

#### [ACR 5](#)

##### **(Mathis R) AMVETS 75th Anniversary.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 12/14/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Introduced:** 12/14/2020

**Status:** 12/15/2020-From printer.

**Location:** 12/14/2020-A. PRINT

**Summary:** This measure would commend AMVETS Department of California on its 75th year of providing benefits and services to Veterans.

#### [SB 112](#)

##### **(Skinner D) Budget Act of 2021.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 1/8/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Introduced:** 1/8/2021

**Status:** 1/11/2021-From printer. Read first time. Referred to Com. on B. & F.R.

**Location:** 1/11/2021-S. BUDGET & F.R.

**Summary:** This bill would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2021–22 fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

#### [SB 221](#)

##### **(Wiener D) Health care coverage: timely access to care.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 1/13/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Introduced:** 1/13/2021

**Status:** 1/28/2021-Referred to Com. on HEALTH.

**Location:** 1/28/2021-S. HEALTH

**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. Existing law also provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires each department to develop and adopt regulations to ensure that enrollees and insureds have access to needed health care services in a timely manner. This bill would codify the regulations adopted by the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance to provide timely access standards for health care service plans and insurers for nonemergency health care services. The bill would require both a health care service plan and a health insurer to ensure that appointments with nonphysician mental health and substance use disorder providers are subject to the timely access requirements. The bill would additionally require a health care service plan or a health insurer to ensure that an enrollee or insured that is undergoing a course of treatment for an ongoing mental health or substance use disorder condition is able to get a followup appointment with a nonphysician mental health care or substance use disorder provider within 10 business days of the prior appointment. By imposing new requirements on health care service plans, the willful violation of which would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

#### [SB 278](#)

##### **(Leyva D) Public Employees' Retirement System: disallowed compensation: benefit adjustments.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 1/29/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Introduced:** 1/29/2021

**Status:** 2/1/2021-From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 3. Read first time.

**Location:** 1/29/2021-S. RLS.

**Summary:** (1)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 a public agency to contract to make its employees members of PERS and prescribes a process for this. PERS is administered by its board of administration, which is responsible for correcting errors and omissions in the administration of the system and the payment of benefits. Existing law requires the board to correct all actions taken as a result of errors or omissions of the state or a contracting agency, in accordance with certain procedures. This bill would establish new procedures under PERL for cases in which PERS determines 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 thus impermissible under PERL. The bill would also apply these procedures retroactively to determinations made on or after January 1, 2017, if an appeal has been filed and the employee member, survivor, or beneficiary has not exhausted their administrative or legal remedies. At the threshold, after determining that compensation for an employee member reported by the state, school employer, or a contracting agency is disallowed, the bill would require the applicable employer to discontinue the reporting of the disallowed compensation. The bill would require that contributions made on the disallowed compensation, for active members, be credited against future contributions on behalf of the state, school employer, or contracting agency that reported the disallowed compensation and would require that the state, school employer, or contracting agency return to the member any contributions paid by the member or on the member's behalf. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

## **SB 280**

**(Limón D) Health insurance: large group health insurance.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/1/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Introduced:** 2/1/2021

**Status:** 2/2/2021-From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 4.

**Location:** 2/1/2021-S. RLS.

**Summary:** (1)Existing law requires the regulation of health insurance policies by the Department of Insurance under the guidance of the Insurance Commissioner. Under existing law, the department regulates individual, small employer, and large employer health insurance policies, as defined. Existing law requires an individual or small group health insurance policy issued to include coverage for essential health benefits, as defined. This bill would require a large group health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2022, to cover medically necessary basic health care services, as defined. The bill would authorize the commissioner to adopt regulations to implement these provisions. The bill would require these provisions to apply to an individual, group, or blanket disability insurance policy if a specified condition is met. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

## **SB 294**

**(Leyva D) Public retirement: leave of absence: service credit.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/2/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Introduced:** 2/2/2021

**Status:** 2/3/2021-From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 5.

**Location:** 2/2/2021-S. RLS.

**Summary:** The Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL) establishes the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) for the purpose of providing pension benefits to state employees and employees of contracting agencies. Existing law requires administration of PERS by the Board of Administration of PERS. Existing law creates the Public Employees' Retirement Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, as a trust fund to be expended for purposes related to the system and its administration, and into which employee contributions are deposited. The Teachers' Retirement Law establishes the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) for the purpose of providing a defined benefit to members of the program. STRS is governed by the Teachers' Retirement Board. Existing law creates the Teachers' Retirement Fund, which is continuously appropriated for specified purposes, and into which employee contributions are deposited. PERS and STRS require employees to make contributions to the system based on their creditable compensation, as defined. Existing law defines "leave of absence" for purposes of both laws as a period of leave to which a member is entitled that is expressly authorized or required pursuant to specified provisions, including employer-approved compensated leave, subject to specified requirements. Under existing law, during a leave of absence for an employer-approved compensated leave, an employee earns full service credit and is required to pay employee contributions, as specified. Existing law limits the maximum amount of the service credit earned during an employer-approved compensated leave of absence to 12 years. This bill would remove the 12-year limitation for service credit earned on an employer-approved compensated leave. By increasing contributions into the continuously appropriated Public Employees' Retirement Fund and Teachers' Retirement Fund, the bill would make an appropriation. This bill contains other existing laws.

**Total Measures: 11**

**Total Tracking Forms: 11**