



BLANNING & BAKER

Associates, Inc.

**CSR Legislative Report
3/22/2024**

Support

[AB 46](#) (Ramos D) Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.

Current Text: Amended: 7/12/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 12/5/2022

Last Amend: 7/12/2023

Status: 9/1/2023-In committee: Held under submission.

Location: 8/14/2023-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: The Personal Income Tax Law imposes a tax on individual taxpayers measured by the taxpayer's taxable income for the taxable year, but excludes certain items of income from the computation of tax, including an exclusion for combat-related special compensation. This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2034, would exclude from gross income retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for service performed in the uniformed services, as defined, during the taxable year. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2034, would also exclude from gross income annuity payments received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, pursuant to a United States Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan during the taxable year. The bill would make related findings and declarations. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Memo:

Support letter sent to Author -- 6/16/23

Support letter sent to Sen. M&VA -- 6/16/23

Support letter sent to Sen. APPR -- 8/7/23

[AB 236](#) (Holden D) Health care coverage: provider directories.

Current Text: Amended: 1/22/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/13/2023

Last Amend: 1/22/2024

Status: 1/30/2024-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 59. Noes 9.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 1/30/2024-S. RLS.

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. If a plan or insurer has not financially compensated a provider in the prior year, the bill would require the plan or insurer to delete the provider from its directory beginning July 1, 2025, unless specified criteria applies. 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.

[AB 820](#)

(Reyes D) State boards and commissions: seniors.

Current Text: Amended: 7/3/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amend: 7/3/2023

Status: 9/1/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/14/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

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

Summary: Existing law requires the Governor and every other appointing authority to, in making appointments to state boards and commissions, be responsible for nominating a variety of persons of different backgrounds, abilities, interests, and opinions in compliance with the policy that the composition of state boards and commissions shall be broadly reflective of the general public including ethnic minorities and women. This bill would require the composition of various advisory groups and bodies to include a state agency official responsible for administering programs that serve, or state commission official that advocates on behalf of, older adults, as defined, or a representative from an organization that serves or advocates on behalf of older adults.

Memo:

Support letter sent to Author -- 6/16/23

Support letter sent to Sen. HumS -- 6/16/23

Support letter sent to Sen. APPR -- 8/7/23

[AB 2028](#)

(Ortega D) Medical loss ratios.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/1/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/1/2024

Status: 2/12/2024-Referred to Com. on HEALTH.

Location: 2/12/2024-A. 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, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires a health insurance issuer to comply with minimum medical loss ratios (MLRs) and to provide an annual rebate to each insured if the MLR of the amount of the revenue expended by the issuer on costs to the total amount of premium revenue is less than a certain percentage, as specified. Existing law requires health care service plans and health insurers that issue, sell, renew, or offer a contract or policy, excluding specialized dental and vision contracts and policies, to comply with a minimum MLR of 85% and provide specified rebates. Existing law requires a health care service plan or health insurer that issues, sells, renews, or offers a contract or policy covering dental services to annually report MLR information to the appropriate department. This bill would require a health care service plan or health insurer that issues, sells, renews, or offers a specialized dental health care service plan contract or specialized dental health insurance policy to comply with a minimum MLR of 85% and to provide a specified rebate to an enrollee or insured. Because a willful violation of these provisions by a health care service plan would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Memo:

Support letter sent to Author -- 3/22/24

[AB 2207](#)

(Reyes D) State boards and commissions: representatives of older adults.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/7/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/7/2024

Status: 3/4/2024-Referred to Coms. on AGING & L.T.C. and HUM. S.

Location: 3/4/2024-A. AGING & L.T.C.

Calendar: 4/16/2024 3 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY AGING AND LONG TERM CARE, BAINS, JASMEET, Chair

Summary: Existing law establishes the California Commission on Aging composed of 25 persons, as specified, and requires the commission to hire an executive director. Existing law also establishes the California Department of Aging and provides for a director of that department. Existing law establishes various state boards and commissions to address public health concerns throughout the state and generally requires that individuals appointed to these state entities be broadly reflective of the general public. This bill would expand the membership of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee, the California Health Workforce Education and Training Council, the California Workforce Development Board, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, and the Interagency Council on Homelessness to include the Executive Director of the California Commission on Aging, the Director of the California

Department of Aging, or both, or other persons that serve or advocate for older adults, as specified. This bill would also modify the membership of an advisory committee to the Interagency Council on Homelessness to specifically include representatives from organizations that serve or advocate on behalf of older adults, among others.

Memo:

Support letter sent to Author -- 3/22/24

Support letter sent to Asm. A<C -- 3/22/24

[SB 980](#)

(Wahab D) Medi-Cal: dental crowns and implants.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/29/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 3/20/2024-S. APPR.

Summary: Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services, including certain dental services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid program provisions. Under existing law, early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPSDT) services are covered under Medi-Cal for an individual under 21 years of age in accordance with certain federal provisions. Under existing law, for persons 21 years of age or older, laboratory-processed crowns on posterior teeth are a covered benefit when medically necessary to restore a posterior tooth back to normal function based on the criteria specified in the Medi-Cal Dental Manual of Criteria. This bill, for purposes of the above-described Medi-Cal coverage for laboratory-processed crowns, would remove the condition that the tooth be posterior and would apply the coverage to persons 13 years of age or older. Under the bill, this provision would not be construed to exclude Medi-Cal coverage for laboratory-processed crowns on teeth if otherwise required under EPSDT services. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[SCR 104](#)

(Nguyen R) Older Americans Month.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/22/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/22/2024

Status: 2/1/2024-Ordered to inactive file on request of Senator Nguyen.

Location: 2/1/2024-S. INACTIVE FILE

Summary: This bill would recognize the month of May 2024 as Older Americans Month and would encourage all Californians to recognize and treat all older adults with compassion and respect, and to participate in services and activities that contribute to the health, welfare, and happiness of older adults.

Watch

[AB 1006](#)

(McKinnor D) Aging and Disability Resource Connection program: No Wrong Door System.

Current Text: Amended: 4/27/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2023

Last Amend: 4/27/2023

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 establishes an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program, administered by the California Department of Aging, to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs and to assist older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities in accessing LTSS programs at the local level. Existing law requires the California Department of Aging to administer the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Infrastructure Grants Program for the purpose of implementing a No Wrong Door System, a system that enables consumers to access all long-term services and supports (LTSS) through one agency, organization, coordinated network, or portal. Existing law makes related legislative intent statements regarding the No Wrong Door System, including that it is the intent to provide consumers and their caregivers access to information and services, regardless of income or benefit level. Existing law also establishes the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee, within the California Department of Aging, as the primary adviser in the implementation of the No Wrong Door System. Existing law authorizes the committee to use the staff of the California Department of Aging to accomplish its purposes. This bill would instead require the committee to use the staff of the California Department of Aging. The bill would also instead require the No Wrong Door System to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities, as specified, and would require, no later than December 31, 2025, the system to also establish a statewide respite referral registry to connect consumers enrolled in the Medi-Cal program with culturally competent, prescreened respite providers, and create and implement a

consumer directed employer program to assist in the provision of the statewide respite referral system.

[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 1813](#)

(Alanis R) Senior Tenant Shallow Rental Subsidy Program of 2024: housing grants.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/10/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/10/2024

Status: 1/29/2024-Referred to Com. on H. & C.D.

Location: 1/29/2024-A. H. & C.D.

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer various housing programs, including the Multifamily Housing Program and the CalHome Program. This bill would establish the Senior Tenant Shallow Rental Subsidy Program of 2024. The bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the legislature, to establish and administer a grant program for cities and counties to provide subsidies for senior citizens at risk of homelessness. The bill would require that, of the grants awarded pursuant to the program, 50% of the funds be awarded to localities with at least 250,000 residents, and 50% be awarded to localities with less than 250,000 residents. The bill would require funds awarded through the program be obligated by no later than July 31, 2025. The bill would authorize the department to reallocate any part of an award that is not so obligated to other grantees participating in the program that meet specified requirements. The bill would require a grantee to award rental subsidies to individuals, not to exceed \$500 per month for up to 18 months, based on specified requirements. The bill would establish the Senior Tenant Shallow Rental Subsidy Program of 2024 Fund in the State Treasury, and would provide moneys in the fund be allocated, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for use in accordance with the program.

[AB 2169](#)

(Bauer-Kahan D) Prescription drug coverage: dose adjustments.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/7/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on HEALTH. Read second time and amended.

Location: 2/20/2024-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/9/2024 1:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 ASSEMBLY HEALTH, BONTA, MIA, 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 generally authorizes a health care service plan or health insurer to use utilization review, 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 also prohibits a health care service plan that covers prescription drug benefits from limiting or excluding coverage for a drug that was previously approved for coverage if an enrollee continues to be prescribed that drug, as specified. The bill would authorize a licensed health care professional to request, and would require that they be granted, the authority to adjust the dose or frequency of a drug to meet the specific medical needs of the enrollee or insured without prior authorization if specified conditions are met. Under the bill, if the enrollee or insured has been continuously using a prescription drug selected by their prescribing provider for the medical condition under consideration while covered by their current or previous health coverage, the health care service plan or health insurance policy would be prohibited from limiting or excluding coverage of that prescription. With respect to health care service plans, the bill would specify that its provisions do not apply to Medi-Cal managed care plan contracts. Because a willful violation of these provisions by a health care service plan would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2474](#)

(Lackey R) Retirement: County Employees Retirement Law of 1937: benefit payments and overpayments.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/13/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2024

Status: 2/26/2024-Referred to Com. on P.E. & R.

Location: 2/26/2024-A. P.E. & R.

Summary: The County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) authorizes counties and districts to establish retirement systems in order to provide pension benefits to their employees and their

beneficiaries and prescribes the rights, benefits, and duties of members in this regard. CERL defines compensation and compensation earnable for purposes of its provisions. Existing law, the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), prescribed various limitations on public employees, employers, and retirement systems concerning, among other things, the types of remuneration that may be included in compensation that is applied to pensions. Under CERL, the board of retirement is required to comply with and give effect to a revocable written authorization signed by a retired member or beneficiary of a retired member, as described, authorizing the treasurer or other entity authorized by the board to deliver the monthly warrant, check, or electronic fund transfer for the retirement allowance or benefit to any specified bank, savings and loan institution, or credit union to be credited to the account of the retired member or survivor of a deceased retired member. This bill would also authorize the monthly warrant, check, or electronic fund transfer for the retirement allowance or benefit to be delivered to a prepaid account, as defined. The bill would also define "account of the retired member or survivor of a deceased retired member" to include an account held in a living trust or an income-only trust, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2487](#)

(Fong, Mike D) Deputy Secretary for Climate.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-Referred to Coms. on L. & E. and U. & E. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on L. & E. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/21/2024-A. L. & E.

Calendar: 4/3/2024 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 447 ASSEMBLY LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, ORTEGA, LIZ, Chair

Summary: Existing law, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establishes the position of Deputy Secretary for Climate within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to be appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate, for the purpose of assisting in the oversight of California's workforce transition to a sustainable and equitable carbon-neutral economy. Existing law requires the deputy secretary to perform specified duties, including creating or coordinating programs with other state agencies to retrain and upskill workers for, among other jobs, clean energy jobs, as specified. On or before January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, existing law requires the deputy secretary to submit a report to the Legislature on key findings and recommendations regarding the development and implementation of the workforce transition to a sustainable and equitable clean energy economy. This bill would also require the deputy secretary to create and maintain a green jobs website that serves as the central hub for employment opportunities related to the transition to carbon-neutral jobs. The bill would delay the operation of the reporting requirement to January 1, 2026, and would make that reporting requirement inoperative on January 1, 2030.

[AB 2564](#)

(Boerner D) Property tax postponement: Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Fund.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/14/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2024

Status: 3/4/2024-Referred to Com. on REV. & TAX.

Location: 3/4/2024-A. REV. & TAX

Calendar: 4/1/2024 2:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 126 ASSEMBLY REVENUE AND TAXATION, IRWIN, JACQUI, Chair

Summary: Existing law authorizes the Controller, upon approval of a claim for the postponement of ad valorem property taxes, to directly pay a county tax collector for the property taxes owed by the claimant, as provided. Existing law establishes the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the Controller for specified purposes, including disbursements relating to the postponement of property taxes pursuant to the Property Tax Postponement Law. Existing law requires the Controller, on June 30, 2018, and on June 30 each year thereafter, to transfer any moneys in the fund in excess of \$15,000,000 to the General Fund. This bill would require money to be transferred, on June 30, 2025, and on June 30 each year thereafter, from the General Fund to the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Fund when the balance in the latter fund is less than \$15,000,000. The bill would require the amount of money transferred each year to be equal to the sum needed to bring the balance of the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Fund to \$15,000,000. By requiring the transfer of moneys into a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation.

[AB 2620](#)

(Bains D) California Commission on Aging.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/14/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2024

Status: 3/4/2024-Referred to Com. on AGING & L.T.C.

Location: 3/4/2024-A. AGING & L.T.C.

Calendar: 4/16/2024 3 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY AGING AND LONG TERM CARE, BAINS, JASMEET, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes the California Commission on Aging, comprised of 25 members, appointed as specified, including 19 members appointed by the Governor. Existing law requires the commission to be comprised of actual consumers of services provided under the federal Older Americans Act. Under existing law, the commission's mission is, among other things, to serve as the principal advocate body in the state on behalf of older individuals, to participate with and advise the California Department of Aging in various ways relating to the State Plan on Aging, and to develop a method for the selection of delegates to the statewide legislative meeting of senior advocates. Existing law sets forth the duties and powers of the commission, including participating with the department in training workshops for community, regional, and statewide senior advocates, to help older individuals to understand legislative, regulatory, and program implementation processes, and meeting at least 6 times annually in order to study problems of older individuals and present findings and make recommendations. This bill would reduce the number of members of the commission to 18, and require 12 members to be appointed by the Governor, with at least 2 appointed from a list of nominees submitted by, among others, area agency on aging directors and the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council of California. The bill would require the members of the commission be comprised of consumers and providers of services under the federal Older Americans Act, instead of just consumers, who have professional, lived, or academic expertise both within and outside of the field of aging, in specified areas, including health, behavioral health, and housing. The bill would clarify that the commission is an "advisory commission" as described by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and is therefore subject to applicable teleconferencing provisions. The bill would revise the existing duties and purpose of the commission by removing the requirement that the commission develop a method for the selection of delegates to the statewide legislative meeting of senior advocates. The bill would also revise the duties of the commission to require, among other things, the commission's advisory participation in consideration of initiatives for programs and services affecting older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers, as well as to monitor and, when deemed appropriate, engage in federal advocacy efforts on, among others, federal rulemaking packages affecting older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers. The bill would also reduce the annual meetings of the commission from 6 to 4. This bill contains other related provisions.

[AB 2636](#)

(Bains D) Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on AGING & L.T.C. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/4/2024-A. AGING & L.T.C.

Calendar: 4/16/2024 3 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY AGING AND LONG TERM CARE, BAINS, JASMEET, Chair

Summary: Existing law requires the California Department of Aging to administer the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act (act), which establishes various programs that serve older individuals, defined as persons 60 years of age or older, except as specified. The act requires the department to designate various private nonprofit or public agencies as area agencies on aging to work within a planning and service area and provide a broad array of social and nutritional services. Under the act, the department's mission is to provide leadership to those agencies in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments. This bill would recast and revise various provisions of the act, including updating findings and declarations relating to statistics and issues of concern to the older adult population, and replacing references throughout the act from "senior," and similar terminology to "older adult." The bill would increase flexibility for area agencies on aging to develop and manage community-based program based on local need, as specified. The bill would repeal obsolete provisions, such as the Senior Center Bond Act of 1984. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 2699](#)

(Carrillo, Wendy D) Hazardous materials: reporting: civil liability.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-Referred to Coms. on E.S. & T.M. and JUD. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on E.S. & T.M. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/21/2024-A. E.S. & T.M.

Calendar: 4/9/2024 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS, GARCIA, EDUARDO, Chair

Summary: (1)Existing law requires the Secretary for Environmental Protection to implement a unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory program, known as the unified program. Existing law requires every county to apply to the secretary to be certified to implement the unified program, and authorizes a city or local agency that meets specified requirements to apply to the secretary to be certified to implement the unified program, as a certified unified program agency. Existing law authorizes a state or local agency that has a written agreement with a certified unified program agency, and is approved by the secretary, to implement or enforce one or more of the unified

program elements as a participating agency. Existing law defines "unified program agency" to mean a certified unified program agency or its participating agencies, as provided. Existing law requires a business that handles a hazardous material, or an employee, authorized representative, agent, or designee of that business, to, upon discovery, immediately report any release or threatened release of a hazardous material, or an actual release of a hazardous substance, as defined, to the unified program agency and the Office of Emergency Services, as provided. Existing law requires the Office of Emergency Services, on or before January 1, 2022, to adopt regulations to implement these reporting requirements. This bill would require this reporting to be made to the California Environmental Protection Agency instead of the Office of Emergency Services. The bill would delete the requirement on the Office of Emergency Services to adopt regulations, and would instead require the California Environmental Protection Agency, on or before January 1, 2028, to review and revise the regulations that implement the reporting requirements. This bill would require the Office of Administrative Law, on or before January 1, 2025, to report to the Legislature on whether the Office of Emergency Services has adopted certain regulations, as specified. The bill would define certain terms for purposes of the regulations that implement the reporting requirements if the Office of Administrative Law's report indicates that those regulations have not been adopted by the Office of Emergency Services. The bill would authorize the California Environmental Protection Agency to revise those definitions by revising the regulations.

(2) Existing law requires the unified program agency to maintain one or more nonemergency contact numbers for release reports that do not require immediate agency response and requires the unified program agency to promptly communicate changes to this contact information to the Office of Emergency Services. This bill would require the unified program agency to maintain one or more nonemergency methods of communication, instead of phone numbers, and would require the unified program agency to promptly communicate changes to the California Environmental Protection Agency, instead of the Office of Emergency Services.

(3) Existing law requires the Office of Emergency Services to approve a form for use by a business that is required to submit a followup emergency notice pursuant to federal law regarding a release of an extremely hazardous substance. Existing law authorizes the Office of Emergency Services to adopt guidelines for the use of the approved form. This bill would instead require the California Environmental Protection Agency to adopt regulations to approve the form and would require the followup emergency notice to be provided on the form.

(4) Existing law requires the Office of Emergency Services to develop informational guidelines for facilities required to comply with the reporting requirements and with certain federal reporting requirements regarding the release of extremely hazardous substances. Existing law requires the Office of Emergency Services to assist the unified program agency in ensuring full distribution of the guidelines to those facilities. This bill would instead require the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop the informational guidelines and to assist the unified program agency in distributing the guidelines.

(5) Existing law provides that a business that violates the unified program laws is liable to a unified program agency for an administrative penalty not greater than \$2,000 for each day that the violation occurs and that a business that knowingly violates the unified program laws is liable for an administrative penalty not greater than \$5,000 for each day that the violation occurs. This bill would, beginning January 1, 2026, increase those penalties to be not greater than \$20,000 for each day that the violation occurs and not greater than \$30,000 for each day that the violation occurs knowingly.

(6) Existing law requires a stationary source, as defined, with one or more processes that have certain substances present in more than a threshold quantity to prepare and submit a risk management plan, if the unified program agency makes a specified determination. Existing law requires the owner or operator of a stationary source submitting a risk management plan to submit the plan to the unified program agency after the plan is certified as complete, and requires the unified program agency to review the plan. Existing law imposes various requirements related to the submission and contents of a risk management plan. Existing law imposes civil or administrative liability on a person or stationary source that violates these provisions in an amount of not more than \$5,000 for each day that the violation occurs, and in an amount of not more than \$25,000 for each day that the violation occurs if the person or stationary source knowingly violates these provisions after reasonable notice of the violation. This bill would increase those penalties to be not greater than \$20,000 for each day that the violation occurs and not greater than \$30,000 for each day that the violation occurs knowingly.

(7) To the extent this bill would require unified program agencies to provide new programs or higher levels of service, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 2798

(Rivas, Robert D) Collective bargaining: Legislature.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/15/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Status: 3/11/2024-Referred to Com. on P.E. & R.

Location: 3/11/2024-A. P.E. & R.

Calendar: 4/3/2024 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT, MCKINNOR, TINA, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Legislature Employer-Employee Relations Act, will become operative on July 1, 2026 to provide specified employees of the Legislature the right to form, join, and participate in the

activities of employee organizations of their own choosing for the purpose of representation on all matters of employer-employee relations. Existing law requires the "employer," defined as the Assembly Committee on Rules or the Senate Committee on Rules, to meet and confer with representatives of recognized employee organizations regarding matters within the scope of representation. Existing law excludes certain matters from the scope of representation, as specified. Existing law authorizes certain parties to petition for extraordinary relief from specified decisions or orders of the Public Employment Relations Board, and requires this petition to be filed in the district court of appeal in the appellate district where the unit determination or unfair practice dispute occurred. Existing law provides that if the time to petition for extraordinary relief from a board decision has expired, the board may seek enforcement of its final decision or order in a district court of appeal or a superior court in the district where the unit determination or unfair practice case occurred. This bill would exclude the design, construction, and location of legislative facilities from the scope of representation. The bill would require a petition for extraordinary relief from a decision or order of the Public Employment Relations Board, as specified, to instead be filed in the Court of Appeal for the Third Appellate District. The bill would provide that if the time to petition for extraordinary relief from a board decision has expired, the board may instead seek enforcement of its final decision or order in the Court of Appeal for the Third Appellate District or Superior Court of the County of Sacramento. The bill would require the employer to reimburse an employee for any reasonable travel expenses incurred by the employee in traveling to and from a court proceeding at the Court of Appeal for the Third Appellate District or Superior Court of the County of Sacramento at which the employee is required to appear.

[AB 2800](#)

(Kalra D) Elders and dependent adults: abuse or neglect.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-Referred to Coms. on AGING & L.T.C. and JUD. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on AGING & L.T.C. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/21/2024-A. AGING & L.T.C.

Calendar: 4/16/2024 3 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY AGING AND LONG TERM CARE, BAINS, JASMEET, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act, sets forth various provisions for the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of elder and dependent adult abuse. The act requires specified persons, known as mandated reporters, to report cases of elder or dependent adult abuse, including cases of physical abuse or neglect. Under the act, failure to report the abuse is a misdemeanor. Existing law defines "neglect" for purposes of the act to include, among other things, failure to assist in personal hygiene or in the provision of food, clothing, or shelter, or failure to prevent malnutrition or dehydration. This bill would expand the definition of neglect to include (1) failure to implement a treatment plan, (2) failure to provide or arrange for services necessary for physical, mental, or emotional health, and (3) carelessness that produces or could reasonably be expected to result in serious physical injury, mental suffering, or death. Existing law defines "physical abuse" for purposes of the act to include, among other things, use of a physical or chemical restraint or psychotropic medication for specified purposes, including for punishment or for any purpose not authorized by a physician and surgeon. This bill would expand the definition of physical abuse to include use of a physical or chemical restraint or psychotropic medication for discipline or convenience when not required to treat the resident's medical symptoms and administered by a long-term health care facility or residential care facility for the elderly, as defined. This bill contains other existing laws.

[AB 2914](#)

(Bonta D) Health care service plan alternative standards of accessibility.

Current Text: Amended: 3/18/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Last Amend: 3/18/2024

Status: 3/19/2024-Re-referred to Com. on HEALTH.

Location: 3/18/2024-A. 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 requires a plan to annually report to the department on its compliance with network adequacy standards. Existing regulations authorize a health care service plan to propose to the department alternative standards of accessibility if access requirements are unreasonably restrictive for a portion of a service area or if specified criteria are met for a portion of a service area. This bill would require the department to report to the Legislature on or before April 1, 2025, and on or before each April 1 thereafter, regarding alternative access proposals approved by the department in the prior year.

[AB 3129](#)

(Wood D) Health care system consolidation.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/16/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/16/2024

Status: 3/11/2024-Referred to Coms. on HEALTH and JUD.

Location: 3/11/2024-A. HEALTH

Calendar: 4/9/2024 1:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 ASSEMBLY HEALTH, BONTA, MIA, Chair
Summary: Existing law requires a nonprofit corporation that operates or controls a health facility or other facility that provides similar health care to provide written notice to, and to obtain the written consent of, the Attorney General prior to entering into any agreement or transaction to sell, transfer, lease, exchange, option, convey, or otherwise dispose of the asset, or to transfer control, responsibility, or governance of the asset or operation, to a for-profit corporation or entity, to a mutual benefit corporation or entity, or to a nonprofit corporation, as specified. This bill would require a private equity group or a hedge fund, as defined, to provide written notice to, and obtain the written consent of, the Attorney General prior to a change of control or an acquisition between the private equity group or hedge fund and a health care facility or provider group, as those terms are defined, except as specified. The bill would require the notice to be submitted at the same time that any other state or federal agency is notified pursuant to state or federal law, and otherwise at least 90 days before the change in control or acquisition. The bill would authorize the Attorney General to extend that 90-day period under certain circumstances. The bill would additionally require a private equity group or hedge fund to provide advance written notice to the Attorney General prior to a change of control or acquisition between a private equity group or hedge fund and a nonphysician provider, or a provider with specified annual revenue. The bill would authorize the Attorney General to give the private equity group or hedge fund a written waiver or the notice and consent requirements if specified conditions apply, including, but not limited to, that the party makes a written waiver request, the party's operating costs have exceeded its operating revenue in the relevant market for 3 or more years and the party cannot meet its debts, and the acquisition or change of control will ensure continued health care access in the relevant markets. The bill would require the Attorney General to grant or deny the waiver within 60 days, as prescribed. This bill contains other related provisions.

[AB 3175](#)

(Villapudua D) Health care coverage: dental services.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/16/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/16/2024

Status: 2/17/2024-From printer. May be heard in committee March 18.

Location: 2/16/2024-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 and makes a willful violation of the act's requirements a crime. Existing law imposes specified coverage and disclosure requirements on health care service plans, including specialized plans, that cover dental services. Existing law, on and after January 1, 2025, prohibits a health care service plan from issuing, amending, renewing, or offering a plan contract that imposes a dental waiting period provision in a large group plan or preexisting condition provision for any plan. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

[AB 3205](#)

(Essayli R) Civil actions: attorney's fees and costs.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/16/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/16/2024

Status: 3/11/2024-Referred to Com. on JUD.

Location: 3/11/2024-A. JUD.

Summary: Existing law entitles a prevailing party, as defined, to recover costs in any action or proceeding. Existing law permits attorney's fees to be recoverable as costs when such fees are authorized by contract, statute, or law. This bill would require the court to order the state to pay the attorney's fees and costs of the prevailing party in an action in which the state is a party and the court finds that a state statute is facially unconstitutional. The bill would specify that a claim for attorney's fees and costs pursuant to its provisions is not required to be filed under the Government Claims Act.

[AB 3207](#)

(Patterson, Joe R) The Secure Seniors Online Protection Act.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/16/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/16/2024

Status: 3/11/2024-Referred to Coms. on AGING & L.T.C. and P. & C.P.

Location: 3/11/2024-A. AGING & L.T.C.

Calendar: 4/16/2024 3 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY AGING AND LONG TERM CARE, BAINS, JASMEET, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes the California Department of Aging in the California Health and Human Services Agency and sets forth its mission to provide leadership to the area agencies on aging in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments. Existing law establishes the State Department of Social Services in the California Health and Human Services Agency. Existing law designates the department as the single state agency with full power to supervise every phase of the administration of public social services, except health care services and medical assistance, as specified. This bill, the Secure Seniors Online Protection Act, would require the State Department of Social Services to, subject to an appropriation, on or before January 1, 2026, establish and administer a 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, toll-free hotline to assist all Californians

in dealing with online scams, as provided. The bill would require the State Department of Social Services to ensure that the program and its staff are equipped to meet the needs of individuals who are 60 years of age and older. The bill would require, on or before January 31, 2027, and annually thereafter, the State Department of Social Services to submit a report to the Legislature and the relevant policy committees containing, among other things, the number of seniors served, the types of problems the program assisted seniors with, and recommendations for improving the program. This bill contains other existing laws.

[SB 252](#)

(Gonzalez D) Public retirement systems: fossil fuels: divestment.

Current Text: Amended: 5/18/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/30/2023

Last Amend: 5/18/2023

Status: 7/14/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was P.E. & R. on 6/8/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 7/14/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: The California Constitution grants the retirement board of a public employee retirement system plenary authority and fiduciary responsibility for investment of moneys and administration of the retirement fund and system. These provisions qualify this grant of powers by reserving to the Legislature the authority to prohibit investments if it is in the public interest and the prohibition satisfies standards of fiduciary care and loyalty required of a retirement board. This bill would prohibit the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a fossil fuel company, as defined. The bill would require the boards to liquidate investments in a fossil fuel company on or before July 1, 2031. The bill would temporarily suspend the above-described liquidation provision upon a good faith determination by the board that certain conditions materially impact normal market mechanisms for pricing assets, as specified, and would make this suspension provision inoperative on January 1, 2035. The bill would provide that it does not require a board to take any action unless the board determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board's fiduciary responsibilities established in the California Constitution. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[SB 278](#)

(Dodd D) Elder abuse.

Current Text: Amended: 5/16/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/1/2023

Last Amend: 5/16/2023

Status: 7/14/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was B. & F. on 6/1/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 7/14/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Existing law, the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act, establishes various procedures for the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of elder and dependent adult abuse. Existing law defines financial abuse for those purposes and provides that it occurs when, among other instances, a person or entity takes, secretes, appropriates, obtains, or retains, or assists in taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining, or retaining, real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult for a wrongful use or with intent to defraud, or both. Existing law requires a person or entity to be deemed to have taken, secreted, appropriated, obtained, or retained property for a wrongful use if, among other things, the person or entity takes the property and the person or entity knew or should have known that the conduct is likely to be harmful to the elder or dependent adult. Existing law requires the court to award specified costs if a defendant is found liable for financial abuse, as specified. Existing law makes the failure to report, or impeding or inhibiting a report of, among other things, financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of certain reporting requirements a misdemeanor. This bill would add to the definition of "financial abuse" knowingly aiding and abetting in the taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining, or retaining real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult for a wrongful use or with intent to defraud, or both. The bill would also define "assists" for those purposes. The bill would also specifically state that the above-described provision regarding when a person or entity is deemed to have taken property for a wrongful use includes when a person or entity assisted in taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining, or retaining property for a wrongful use. The changes made by this bill would not apply to criminal prosecutions and, therefore, the bill would not expand the above-described crime. The bill would make the provisions severable. This bill contains other existing laws.

[SB 294](#)

(Wiener D) Health care coverage: independent medical review.

Current Text: Amended: 1/11/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/2/2023

Last Amend: 1/11/2024

Status: 1/29/2024-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 31. Noes 7.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 1/29/2024-A. DESK

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 establishes the Independent Medical Review System within each department, under which an enrollee or insured may seek review if a health care service has been denied, modified, or delayed by a health care service plan or disability insurer and the enrollee or insured has previously filed a grievance that remains unresolved after 30 days. This bill, commencing July 1, 2025, would require a health care service plan or a disability insurer that upholds its decision to modify, delay, or deny a health care service in response to a grievance or has a grievance that is otherwise pending or unresolved upon expiration of the relevant timeframe to automatically submit within 24 hours a decision regarding a disputed health care service to the Independent Medical Review System, as well as the information that informed its decision, if the decision is to deny, modify, or delay specified services relating to mental health or substance use disorder conditions for an enrollee or insured up to 26 years of age. The bill would require a health care service plan or disability insurer, within 24 hours after submitting its decision to the Independent Medical Review System to provide notice to the appropriate department, the enrollee or insured or their representative, if any, and the enrollee's or insured's provider. The bill would require the notice to include notification to the enrollee or insured that they or their representative may cancel the independent medical review at any time before a determination, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[SB 598](#)

(Skinner D) Health care coverage: prior authorization.

Current Text: Amended: 8/14/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2023

Last Amend: 8/14/2023

Status: 9/1/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/23/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

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

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 generally authorizes a health care service plan or health 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 health 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 requires the criteria or guidelines used to determine whether or not to authorize, modify, or deny health care services to be developed with involvement from actively practicing health care providers. On or after January 1, 2026, this bill would prohibit a health care service plan or health insurer from requiring a contracted health professional to complete or obtain a prior authorization for any covered health care services if the plan or insurer approved or would have approved not less than 90% of the prior authorization requests they submitted in the most recent completed one-year contracted period. The bill would set standards for this exemption and its denial, rescission, and appeal. The bill would authorize a plan or insurer to evaluate the continuation of an exemption not more than once every 12 months, and would authorize a plan or insurer to rescind an exemption only at the end of the 12-month period and only if specified criteria are met. The bill would require a plan or insurer to provide an electronic prior authorization process. The bill would also require a plan or insurer to have a process for annually monitoring prior authorization approval, modification, appeal, and denial rates to identify services, items, and supplies that are regularly approved, and to discontinue prior authorization on those services, items, and supplies that are approved 95% of the time. Because a willful violation of the bill's requirements relative to health care service plans would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other existing laws.

[SB 875](#)

(Glazer D) Health and care facilities: residential care facilities for the elderly: referral agencies.

Current Text: Amended: 1/11/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Last Amend: 1/11/2024

Status: 1/29/2024-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 32. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 1/29/2024-A. DESK

Summary: The California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act generally requires the State Department of Social Services to license, inspect, and regulate residential care facilities for the elderly and imposes criminal penalties on a person who violates the act or who willfully or repeatedly violates any rule or regulation adopted under the act. The act prohibits a placement agency, as defined, from placing an individual in a licensed residential care facility for the elderly if the individual, because of a

health condition, cannot be cared for within the limits of the license or requires inpatient care in a health facility. The act requires an employee of a placement agency who knows, or reasonably suspects, that a facility is improperly operating without a license to report the facility to the department, and requires the department to investigate those reports. The act further requires a placement agency to notify the appropriate licensing agency of any known or suspected incidents that would jeopardize the health or safety of residents in a facility. The act specifically makes a violation of these requirements a crime. Existing law requires a referral agency to obtain a license from the State Department of Public Health in order to refer a person to any extended care facility, skilled nursing home, or intermediate care facility. Existing law exempts a local public agency performing referral services without cost from these provisions. Under existing law, a violation of these provisions is subject to a civil penalty and suspension or revocation of the license. This bill would additionally require a referral agency to obtain a license from the State Department of Social Services in order to refer a person to a residential care facility for the elderly. The bill would prohibit an extended care facility, skilled nursing home, intermediate care facility, or residential care facility for the elderly from paying a commission or fee to a referral agency that is not licensed, as specified. The bill would prohibit a referral agency from holding any power of attorney or any other property of a person receiving referral services, or to receive or hold a client's property in any capacity. With respect to a residential care facility for the elderly, the bill would require a referral agency to disclose specified information to each person receiving its services, and to maintain records of those disclosures for a period of 3 years, as specified. The bill would specify that a referral agency licensee would be subject to specified provisions relating to placement agencies for residential care facilities for the elderly. By expanding the definition of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would also require referral agencies to maintain liability insurance in specified amounts. The bill would also make it unlawful for an employee, independent contractor, or other person who is acting on behalf of a governmental agency, hospital, or other health care institution to offer, provide, or accept a payment, rebate, refund, commission, preference, or discount as payment, compensation, or inducement for referring patients, clients, or customers to a facility or licensee. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[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 966](#)

(Wiener D) Pharmacy benefits.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/24/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/24/2024

Status: 2/14/2024-Referred to Coms. on B., P. & E. D. and HEALTH.

Location: 2/14/2024-S. B., P. & E.D.

Summary: Existing law, the Pharmacy Law, establishes the California State Board of Pharmacy in the Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate the practice of pharmacy. Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 (the Knox-Keene Act), a violation of which is a crime, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care. The Knox-Keene Act requires a pharmacy benefit manager under contract with a health care service plan to, among other things, register with the Department of Managed Health Care. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law imposes requirements on audits of pharmacy services provided to beneficiaries of a health benefit plan, as specified, and prohibits those audit provisions from being construed to suggest or imply that the Department of Consumer Affairs or the California State Board of Pharmacy has any jurisdiction or authority over those audit provisions. This bill would delete the latter provision relating to the construction and jurisdiction over those provisions by the department and the board. This bill would require a pharmacy benefit manager, as defined by the bill, to apply for and obtain a license from the California State Board of Pharmacy to operate as a pharmacy benefit manager. The bill would establish application qualifications and requirements, and would establish an unspecified fee for initial licensure and renewal. This bill would require a pharmacy benefit manager, on or before April 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to file with the board a report containing specified information. The bill would specify that the contents of the report shall not be disclosed to the public. The bill would require the board, on or before August 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to submit a report to the Legislature based on the reports submitted by licensees, and would require the board to post the report on the board's internet website. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[SB 1033](#)

(Menjivar D) Health facilities: congregate living health facilities.

Current Text: Amended: 3/11/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/6/2024

Last Amend: 3/11/2024

Status: 3/20/2024-Re-referred to Com. on HEALTH.

Location: 3/20/2024-S. HEALTH

Summary: Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation by the State Department of Public Health of health facilities, including, congregate living health facilities. Existing law defines "congregate living health facility" as a residential home with a capacity of 18 beds that provides inpatient and skilled nursing care, as specified. Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal Long-Term Care Reimbursement Act requires the department to implement a facility-specific ratesetting system using a cost-based reimbursement rate methodology and to update these rates annually. This bill would require, beginning January 10, 2026, and every 3 years thereafter, the State Department of Health Care Services to prepare and submit a cost study to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature. The bill would require the cost study to evaluate all financial and operational costs associated with licensed congregate living health facilities, as specified. The bill would require the department to consult with congregate living health facility providers, patients or families, caregivers, and other relevant parties in preparing the study. The bill would require the department to increase rates for licensed congregate living facilities if a cost study shows an increase above the Consumer Price index for the years between the submitted studies. The bill would authorize the department to adjust rates to maintain patient access if licensed congregate living health facilities can demonstrate that costs have increased in a single year.

SB 1180

(Ashby D) Health care coverage: emergency medical services.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/14/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2024

Status: 2/21/2024-Referred to Com. on HEALTH.

Location: 2/21/2024-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 and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law also provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies to provide coverage for certain services and treatments, including medical transportation services. Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services, including emergency medical transport. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid program provisions. This bill would require a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025, to include coverage for services provided by a community paramedicine program, a triage to alternate destination program, and a mobile integrated health program. The bill would require those plans and policies to require an enrollee or insured who receives covered services from a noncontracting program to pay no more than the same cost-sharing amount they would pay for the same covered services received from a contracting program. The bill would specify the reimbursement process and amount for a noncontracting program. Because a willful violation of these provisions by a health care service plan would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would also make services provided by these programs covered benefits under the Medi-Cal 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: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on L., P.E. & R.

Location: 2/29/2024-S. L., P.E. & R.

Calendar: 4/10/2024 9:30 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 SENATE LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT, SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS, LOLA, Chair

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 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 1249](#)

(Roth D) Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/15/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Status: 3/12/2024-Set for hearing April 1.

Location: 2/29/2024-S. HUM. S.

Calendar: 4/1/2024 3 p.m. or upon adjournment of Session - 1021 O Street, Room 2200

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES, ALVARADO-GIL, MARIE, Chair

Summary: Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes the California Department of Aging in the California Health and Human Services Agency, and sets forth its mission to provide leadership to the area agencies on aging in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or the least restrictive homelike environments. Existing law requires the department to designate various private nonprofit or public agencies as area agencies on aging to work within a planning and service area and provide a broad array of social and nutritional services. Existing law includes various findings and declarations relating to the purposes of the act. This bill would update and revise those legislative findings and declarations, including recognizing the state's major demographic shift towards an older, more diverse population and declaring the intent to reform provisions of the act related to various functions of the area agencies on aging. The bill, within specified time periods, would require the department to take various actions to reform the act, including giving counties the option to petition the department to assume control of the area agency on aging that serves the local jurisdiction, developing core programs and services, and developing a statewide public awareness engagement strategy. The bill would authorize the department to enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts, as specified, for purposes of administering and implementing the act, and to implement, interpret, or make specific that authority by means of information notices, provider bulletins, or other similar instructions.

[SB 1260](#)

(Niello R) High-speed rail: third-party analysis.

Current Text: Amended: 3/19/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Last Amend: 3/19/2024

Status: 3/20/2024-Withdrawn from committee. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 3/20/2024-S. RLS.

Summary: The Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century, approved by the voters as Proposition 1A at the November 4, 2008, general election, provides for the issuance of \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds for high-speed rail and related purposes. The California High-Speed Rail Act creates the High-Speed Rail Authority to develop and implement a high-speed train system in the state, with specified powers and duties. Existing law requires the authority, no later than 90 days before the submittal to the Legislature and the Governor of the initial request for appropriation of proceeds of specified bonds authorized for any eligible capital costs on each corridor, or usable segment of a corridor, to approve and submit to the Director of Finance, a specified independent peer review group, and the transportation policy committees and fiscal committees of the Legislature, a detailed funding plan for that corridor or a usable segment of that corridor, as provided. This bill would require the High-Speed Rail Authority, or its successor, to approve and submit an independent third-party analysis, as contracted by the California State Auditor, of the high-speed train system to the Director of Finance, the independent peer review group, and the policy committees with jurisdiction over transportation matters and the fiscal committees of both houses of the Legislature. The bill would require the third-party analysis to include a determination of the economic and financial justification for the high-speed train system.

[SB 1290](#)

(Roth D) Health care coverage: essential health benefits.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/15/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 3/21/2024-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 4/10/2024 1:30 p.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 1200 SENATE HEALTH SPECIAL ORDER, ROTH, RICHARD, Chair

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 and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Other 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. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing

laws.

[SB 1352](#)

(Wahab D) Continuing care retirement communities.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/16/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/16/2024

Status: 2/29/2024-Referred to Coms. on HUMAN S. and JUD.

Location: 2/29/2024-S. HUM. S.

Summary: Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to regulate activities relating to continuing care contracts that govern care provided to a resident in a continuing care retirement community for the duration of the resident's life or a term in excess of one year. Existing law provides that all residents in residential living units, as defined to mean a living unit in a continuing care retirement community, shall have certain specified rights, such as the right to live in an environment that enhances personal dignity, maintains independence, and encourages self-determination, and the right to participate in activities that meet individual physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual needs. A violation of these provisions is subject to a civil penalty. This bill would add to these rights the right to be free from discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, except as permitted by licensure requirements, marital status or domestic partner status, sexual characteristics, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression.

[SB 1379](#)

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

Current Text: Introduced: 2/16/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/16/2024

Status: 2/29/2024-Referred to Com. on L., P.E. & R.

Location: 2/29/2024-S. L., P.E. & R.

Calendar: 4/10/2024 9:30 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 SENATE LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT, SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS, LOLA, Chair

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 for the above-described limit for retired members hired by the City of Vallejo or the County of Solano to perform a function or functions regularly performed by a peace officer, any evidence or dispatch personnel, or any administrative or records personnel. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2029. This bill contains other related provisions.

Total Measures: 39

Total Tracking Forms: 39