



CPPCA Legislative Update

December 9, 2021

2022 Legislative Session

In anticipation of the California State Legislature's return on January 3, the State Assembly and State Senate released the Legislative Calendar for 2022, which lists all key legislative deadlines, holidays, and legislative recesses. As you know, and of particular note, with this being the second year of a two-year session there will be key timelines in January for bills introduced in 2021. You may find the calendar at the following link:

https://www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/2022_senate_legislative_deadlines.pdf

Below are the following upcoming key dates and deadlines over the first few months of 2022:

- **Jan. 1** - Statutes take effect.
- **Jan. 3** - Legislature reconvenes.
- **Jan. 10** – Budget must be submitted by Governor.
- **Jan. 14** - Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal Committees fiscal bills introduced in their house in 2021.
- **Jan. 21** - Last day for any committee to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house in 2021. Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- **Jan. 31** - Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2021 in their house.
- **Feb. 18** - Last day for bills to be introduced.

There are a number of bills that are currently two-year bills that will be eligible to move in 2022. Some of these include bills that will need to pass out of their house of origin in January. We will keep you updated on these actions as the Legislature returns.

Budget Update

Upon the Legislature's return in January, the Governor will be releasing the January 2022-23 proposed state budget by January 10 which begins the discussions among the Legislature and Administration in budget committees over the course of the spring and into June.

On November 17, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released a report on the state's fiscal outlook in regard to the 2022-23 state budget.

According to the LAO, the state will have an estimated \$31 billion surplus to allocate in 2022-23. However, the LAO recognizes that the State Appropriations Limit (SAL) will be the issue this year, as the state would need to allocate roughly \$14 billion to meet the SAL constitutional requirements. This would require the Legislature to consider reducing taxes, spending more on excluded purposes, or issue tax rebates and make additional payments to K-14 education. The LAO also notes that the budget's condition and capacity through budget year 2025-26 allows for new, ongoing commitments, as operating surpluses each year will range from \$3 billion to \$8 billion over that period.

However, the LAO states that it is impossible to know whether or not the recent gains will remain sustainable. The LAO encourages the Legislature to consider increasing total reserves by more than the state's constitutionally required level, and take action early in 2022 to ensure the state meets current-and prior-year SAL requirements. The estimated surplus will be important context to the upcoming budget discussions.

The full report can be found at the following link: [The 2022-23 Budget: California's Fiscal Outlook](#)

Redistricting

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission is in the process of using census data to redraw the congressional, state senate, state assembly and state board of equalization district boundaries. The Commission will certify final maps and deliver them to the Secretary of State no later than December 27, 2021. There has been a lot of focus on the California redistricting process and what that may mean for current legislators. For example, a PPIC report notes that 20 members of Congress, 29 state Assembly Members and 14 Senators have been drawn into a district with another incumbent. These redistricting changes will certainly serve as a backdrop to forthcoming changes of the legislative membership.

California State Auditor to Retire

After 21 years of service to the state of California, State Auditor Elaine Howell announced that she will be retiring at the end of the year. With the current State Auditor's four-year term expiring in January 2022, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee is tasked with nominating three qualified candidates. From the list of three candidates, the Governor will select the State Auditor.

Penal Code Revision Committee

On November 16, the Penal Code Revision Committee met to discuss the following recommendations to include in their annual report:

1. Strengthen the mental health diversion law.
2. Encourage alternatives to incarceration.
3. Expand CDCR's existing reentry programs.
4. Equalize parole eligibility for all offenses.
5. Modernize the county parole system.
6. Allow appellate courts to reduce sentences in the interest of justice.
7. Repeal Three Strikes.
8. Create a review process for life without parole sentences.

The report can be found at the following link: <http://www.clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Memos/CRPC21-19.pdf>.

The Committee decided to move forward with all recommendations except for proposal #6, which the Committee agreed to study more in-depth next year. The Committee will now work to finalize the report for publication and will not meet until 2022.