



January 2025 Legislative Advocate Report

By Jennifer Baker, CalRTA Legislative Advocate

CalRTA Supports Maternity Leave Legislation

While the deadline to introduce legislation is not until February 21st, hundreds of bills have been introduced by the California Legislature. CalRTA has begun taking positions on bills that have been introduced thus far and will continue to take positions on newly introduced legislation as additional bills are introduced. CalRTA has taken a support position on the following recently introduced bill:

AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry): School and Community College Employees: Paid Disability and Parental Leave – Would provide teachers and community college faculty up to 14 weeks of paid leave for pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions. Additionally, this measure clarifies that leave taken for these reasons cannot be deducted from other available leave balances.

Many women face the need to exhaust their sick leave due to pregnancy, a miscarriage, or childbirth. When this happens, it not only impacts them immediately but can also have long-term ramifications on the total amount of service credit she will have when she retires.

Newsom Introduced 2025-26 Budget Proposal

Governor Newsom released his 2025-26 budget proposal on January 10th. The overall budget totals \$322.2 billion, including \$228.9 billion in the General Fund. Reserves total \$16.9 billion, allocated as follows: \$10.9 billion in the Rainy Day Fund, \$1.5 billion in the Public School System Stabilization Account, and \$4.5 billion in the Special Fund for economic insecurities. Overall revenues have increased by \$16.5 billion but are still significantly impacted by revenue volatility due to California's progressive tax structure. The Governor also noted education will receive \$118.9 billion in TK-16 Proposition 98 funding for 2025-26, which includes \$24,764 in per pupil funding for 2025-26, with \$18,918 coming from Proposition 98. Additionally, a 2.43 percent cost-of-living adjustment is included in the proposed education budget.

Assembly Committee Chairs/Members Announced

In late January, Speaker Rivas (D-Hollister) announced the committee members for the 2025 legislative year. A number of committees have increased the number of legislators included in the committee roster. Committee chairpersons yield a significant amount of influence and are often the most significant gatekeepers of bills under their jurisdiction. The most notable committeepersons that will impact education-related bills are:

Assembly Appropriations Committee

Chair Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland); Asm. Kate Sanchez, Vice Chair; (R-Rancho Santa Margarita); Asm. Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno); Asm. Lisa Calderon (D-Whittier); Asm. Jessica Caloza (D-Los Angeles); Asm. Diane Dixon (R-Newport Beach); Asm. Sade Elhawary (D-South Los Angeles); Asm. Mike Fong (D-Alhambra); Asm. Mark González (D-Los Angeles); Asm. Heather Hadwick (R-Redding); Asm. Gregg Hart (D-Santa Barbara); Asm. Blanca Pacheco (D-Downey); Asm. Gail Pellerin (D-Santa Cruz); Asm. José Solache (D-Lynwood); Asm. Tri Ta (R-Westminster).

Assembly Budget Committee

Chair Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino); Asm. Heath Flora, Vice Chair, (R-Ripon); Asm. Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay); Asm. Patrick Ahrens (D-Silicon Valley); Asm. David Alvarez (D-San Diego); Asm. Steve Bennett (D-Ventura); Asm. Mia Bonta (D-Alameda); Asm. Damon Connolly (D-San Rafael); Asm. Carl DeMaio (R-San Diego); Asm. Mike Fong (D-Alhambra); Asm. Heather Hadwick (R-Redding); Asm. Matt Haney (D-San Francisco); Asm. Gregg Hart (D-Santa Barbara); Asm. Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley); Asm. Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale); Asm. Alex Lee (D-Milpitas); Asm. Alexandra Macedo (R-Visalia); Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance); Asm. Liz Ortega (D-Hayward); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego); Asm. Joe Patterson (R-Rocklin); Asm. Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine); Asm. Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton); Asm. James Ramos (D-San Bernardino); Asm. Chris Rogers (D-Santa Rosa); Asm. Pilar Schiavo (D-Santa Clarita Valley); Asm. Nick Schultz (D-Burbank); Asm. LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego); Asm. José Solache (D-Lynwood); Asm. David Tangipa (R-Fresno); Asm. Greg Wallis (R-Bermuda Dunes); Asm. Christopher Ward (D-San Diego); Asm. Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City).

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance

Chair David Alvarez (D-San Diego); Asm. Mike Fong (D-Alhambra); Asm. Heather Hadwick (R-Redding); Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego); Asm. Gerg Wallis (R-Bermuda Dunes); Asm. Jesse Gabriel – Democratic Alternate, (D-Encino); Asm. Heath Flora – Republican Alternate, (R-Ripon); Assembly Education Committee; Chair Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance); Asm. Josh Hoover, Vice Chair, (R-Folsom); Asm. Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay); Asm. David Alvarez (D-San Diego); Asm. Mia Bonta (D-Alameda); Asm. Leticia Castillo (R-Corona); Asm. Robert Garcia (D-Rancho Cucamonga); Asm. Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego).

Asm. Health Committee

Chair Mia Bonta (D-Alameda); Asm. Joe Patterson, Vice Chair, (R-Rocklin); Asm. Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay); Asm. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters); Asm. Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno); Asm. Juan Carrillo (D-Palmdale); Asm. Heath Flora (R-Ripon); Asm. Mark González (D-Los Angeles); Asm. Maggy Krell (D-Sacramento); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego); Asm. Celeste Rodriguez (D-Arleta); Asm. Kate Sanchez (R-Rancho Santa Margarita); Asm. Pilar Schiavo (D-Santa Clarita Valley); Asm. LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego); Asm. Catherine Stefani (D-San Francisco); Asm. David Tangipa (R-Fresno).

Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee

Chair Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood); Asm. Tom Lackey, Vice Chair, (R-Palmdale); Asm. Juan Alanis (R-Modesto); Asm. Tasha Boerner (D-Encinitas); Asm. Sade Elhawary (D-South Los Angeles); Asm. Robert Garcia (D-Rancho Cucamonga); Asm. Stephanie Nguyen (D-Elk Grove).

Legislative Calendar

February 21 – Last day for bills to be introduced.

May 2 – Last day for policy committees to hear fiscal bills.

May 9 – Last day for policy committees to hear nonfiscal bills.

May 16 – Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 9.

May 23 – Last day for fiscal committees to hear Floor bills introduced in their house. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 9.

June 2-6 – Floor session only.

June 6 – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house.

June 9 – Committee meetings may resume.

June 15 – Budget bill must be passed by midnight.

July 18 – Last day for policy committees to hear bills. Summer Recess begins.

August 18 – Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.

August 29 – Last day for fiscal committees to hear bills.

September 2-12 – Floor session only.

September 5 – Last day to amend a bill on the Floor.

September 12 – Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim Recess begins.