



July 2025 Legislative Advocate Report

By Jennifer Baker, CalRTA Legislative Advocate

CalRTA Continues to Help Retirees

CalRTA-sponsored [AB 1667 \(Cooper, 2022\)](#) continues to protect teachers' retirement security by ensuring that any California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) benefit reduction will be covered in the event of an employer's mistake. This important measure created a more transparent and accountable system to ensure school and community college districts receive timely and accurate information from CalSTRS, and it is reducing the likelihood of reporting mistakes in the future. The measure went into effect in 2023 and has already had a significant impact on retirees across the state.

CalSTRS recently released updated data reflecting overpayments to retirees that will not have to be repaid by retirees as a result of this legislation. Instead, invoices were sent to school districts. In the fourth quarter of 2024, a total of 522 retirees received overpayments that were covered by districts. The total cumulative amount overpaid was approximately \$333,541. The highest individual overpayment during this period was \$16,855. The median overpayment was \$93. CalRTA will continue to provide additional information as it becomes available and will continue to work with CalSTRS to ensure retirees are protected as this continues to be implemented.

Legislature Adjourns for Summer Recess

The Legislature adjourned for summer recess on July 18th after conducting the final policy committee meetings. All bills moving forward this year needed to pass out of the committee by that deadline. The Legislature will reconvene on August 18th, which will be followed by fiscal hearings for all bills that recently passed policy committees prior to the recess.

CalRTA-Supported Bills

The following are CalRTA-supported bills, some of which continue to move forward this legislative session and will be considered when the legislature returns from their summer recess:

Retirement

AB 65 (Aguilar-Curry): School and community college employees: paid disability and parental leave - Would increase paid leave for school employees due to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or the recovery of these conditions. It would also prohibit a leave of absence for these conditions from being deducted from other leaves of absence available to her. This measure was held in the Senate Education Committee and is a two-year bill.

Health Care/Healthy Aging

AB 251 (Kalra): Elders and dependent adults: abuse of neglect - Would allow access to justice for elderly and dependent adults physically abused and neglected in nursing homes. If a court finds that a

defendant skilled nursing facility, adult community care facility, or residential care facility for the elderly intentionally destroyed evidence, this bill gives judges the discretion to apply the preponderance of the evidence standard as the burden of proof. This provision would discourage facilities from destroying or concealing legal evidence in civil cases brought under the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

AB 280 (Aguiar-Curry): Health care coverage: provider directories - Requires an insurance plan to annually verify and eliminate incorrect listings from its directories of providers. These requirements would need to be 60 percent accurate by July 1, 2026, and 95 percent accurate by July 1, 2029, or face administrative penalties. The bill would additionally require a health plan to provide coverage for all health care services for someone who reasonably relied on inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information included in a health plan's provider directory, or to reimburse for out-of-network costs. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 432 (Bauer-Kahan): Menopause - Would ensure equitable menopause and perimenopause coverage and require menopause education for care providers. AB 432 codifies treatment options and coverage for perimenopause and menopause. This bill also creates a requirement that doctors whose patient population is more than 25% women, participate in continuing medical education regarding menopause. AB 432 builds upon previous legislation and requires the Medical Board of California to include a course on menopausal health in determining its continuing education requirements. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 489 (Bonta): Deceptive Terms or Letters: Artificial Intelligence - Prohibits artificial intelligence (AI) systems or similar technologies from misrepresenting "themselves" as licensed health professionals. This bill will provide state health profession boards with the clear authority to enforce title protections when AI systems or similar technologies, such as internet-based chatbots, misrepresent "themselves" as health professionals. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 512 (Harabedian): Health Care Coverage: Prior Authorization - Reduces the time for authorization requests to no more than 48 hours for regular requests or 24 hours for urgent requests. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 539 (Schiavo): Health Care Coverage: Prior Authorizations – Reduces health care administrative costs and speeds up patient care by extending the duration of an approved prior authorization by a health plan to one year, which will remove unnecessary bureaucratic delays and reduce the burden on physicians and patients, especially those with chronic illnesses. The measure was held in the Senate Health Committee and is a two-year bill.

AB 1032 (Harabedian): Coverage for behavioral health visits - Requires health care service plans and insurers, on or after January 1, 2026, to reimburse an eligible enrollee for up to 12 annual visits per year with a licensed behavioral health provider if the enrollee is in a county where a local or state emergency has been declared due to wildfires. The bill also specifies that an enrollee is entitled to these benefits for one year from the date the local or state emergency is lifted, whichever is later. AB 1032 contains an urgency clause that takes effect immediately. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1069 (Bains): Older adults: emergency shelters - Requires that the Aging and Disability Resource Connection has access to an emergency shelter for evacuation purposes for older adults as well as

those with disabilities to utilize during an emergency. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1460 (Rogers): Prescription drug pricing – Helps community health centers and other safety net providers address health equity and access to care issues in California by protecting their ability to utilize contract pharmacies to dispense 340B medications to their patients in underserved communities. This bill ensures that California safety-net providers can use contract pharmacies to serve their patients by prohibiting pharmaceutical manufacturers from placing contract pharmacy restrictions on health care providers that utilize the federal 340B discount drug program to serve low-income communities. The measure was held in the Senate Health Committee and is a two-year bill.

AB 1476 (Wallis): Meal program: Senior citizens – Requires that meals provided by the Department of Aging be made available as to-go options, ensuring easy accessibility. The measure is in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense Files.

SB 306 (Becker): Health Care Coverage: Prior Authorizations – Would eliminate prior authorization for medical services that health plans approve more than 90 percent of the time and would remove unnecessary delays for patients. The measure is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 351 (Cabaldon): Health Facilities - Would prohibit a private equity group or hedge fund that owns a physician or dental practice from interfering with the professional judgment of physicians or dentists in making health care decisions or patient care. The measure is on the Assembly Floor.

SB 433 (Wahab): Retirement care facilities for the elderly: assisted living waiver rental rate protection - Prohibits residential care facilities for the elderly from charging a resident who receives Medi-Cal reimbursed services through the assisted living waiver or nursing facility transition or diversion to assisted living facilities through community supports covered by their Medi-Cal managed care plan, a higher rate than what is charged to a resident who is a recipient of the State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled. The measure is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Legislative Calendar

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.