



June 2025 Legislative Advocate Report

By Jennifer Baker, CalRTA Legislative Advocate

Final Budget Passed

The Legislature passed the Budget Act of 2025, which utilizes [AB 102 \(Wiener\)](#) as a primary vehicle on June 27th. Included in the budget conversation is the recognition of a budget shortfall caused primarily by the recent federal tariffs and economic policies, systemic increases in Medi-Cal that have grown faster than predicted, and the recent Los Angeles wildfires and their resulting economic impact upon the state.

The budget includes \$321.1 billion in total spending, including \$228.4 billion in General Fund spending. The budget includes a total of \$15.7 billion in reserves, which includes \$11.2 billion in the Rainy Day Fund and \$4.5 billion in the overall reserve.

TK-12 Education

A total of \$114.6 billion is provided for Proposition 98 in 2025-26, and \$118 billion for 2024-25, and \$98.5 billion for 2023-24. Within 2024-25 and 2025-26, a total settle-up amount of \$1.9 billion is created for 2025-26, which will be used for ongoing costs as well as addressing deferrals. These funds will be appropriated with the budget development of 2026-27 and will be provided to the Legislature when the Governor releases his 2026 budget on January 10th.

A total of \$406.3 million is withdrawn from the Public School System Stabilization Account to cover costs associated with the local control funding formula (LCFF). The LCFF includes a 2.3 percent cost-of-living-adjustment. A deferral of \$1.9 million is created from July 2025-26 to 2026-27, which will be fully paid in 2026-27. Further, the budget reverts \$177.5 million General Fund for a one-time statutory appropriation from the 2023 Budget Act for the School Facility Program.

Senate Selects New Leader

Senate Democrats elected the first Latina to serve as the next leader of the Senate likely beginning in 2026. Senate Pro Tempore-elect Monique Limón, a progressive from Santa Barbara, is a former school board member and the daughter of immigrants. She will be replacing current Senate Pro Tempore Mike McGuire from Santa Rosa.

CalRTA-Supported Bills

Both houses of the legislature are hearing bills in policy committees. To move forward this year, bills will need to pass these policy committees by July 18th. The following bills are supported by CalRTA and include the status of each measure:

Retirement

AB 65 (Aguiar-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 is in the Senate Education Committee.

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 has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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 Health Committee.

AB 432 (Bauer-Kahan): Menopause - Would ensure equitable menopause and perimenopause coverage and requires 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 has been referred to the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee as well as the Senate Health 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 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 Judiciary 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 Health 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 has been referred to the Senate Health Committee.

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 until 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 Health 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 has been referred to the Senate Human Services Committee and the Governmental Organization 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 has been referred to the Senate Health Committee.

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 Human Services Committee.

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 Health 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 in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

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 has been referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee.

Legislative Calendar

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.