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NAWBO-CA February Newsletter

Advocacy & Public Policy | February 21, 2022

2022 Legislation of Interest to NAWBO-CA

Friday, February 18, was the last day to introduce bills for the 2022 California Legislative Session. We saw 611 bills introduced between the two houses on the final day of introductions. By comparison, in 2021, there were 539 bills introduced and, in 2020, there were just over 700 bills introduced on the last day.

There was a total of 2,020 bills introduced for this 2022 Session between the Senate and Assembly, including 1,461 bills introduced during the last week alone. In 2021, there were 1,252 bills introduced the last week.

Of the 2,020 total bills introduced by yesterday's deadline, there were 1,361 Assembly Bills (compared to 1,560 ABs last year) and 659 Senate Bills (compared to 809 SBs last year) introduced by the deadline.

Over the 10-plus years, there have been between 1,900 to 2,200 bills introduced in the second year of Session, which places 2022 bills introductions in the middle. Below is a listing of bill introductions by the deadline for the past nine years.

- Total 2021 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,369
- Total 2020 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,203
- Total 2019 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,576
- Total 2018 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,177
- Total 2017 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,495
- Total 2016 bill introductions as of the deadline: 1,993
- Total 2015 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,297
- Total 2014 bill introductions as of the deadline: 1,930
- Total 2013 bill introductions as of the deadline: 2,256

Historically, the second year of the 2-year Legislative Session has fewer bill introductions than the first year. There were a total of 181 (121 ABs and 158 SBs) spot or intent bills as of Friday's deadline with a total of 458 (300 ABs and 158 SBs). More spot bills were introduced this year than in the past several years and more than 100 more spot bills than introduced in 2021. Spot or intent bills are introduced to meet the legislative deadline for bill introduction and will be substantially amended in March so we'll know exactly what the intent of the legislation will be next month. Of interest is that roughly 40% of all bills introduced are signed by the Governor.

Attached separately in the newsletter is the current Legislative Bill tracking list for bills of interest to NAWBO-CA. Our Chapters will want to carefully review this list and decide on which bills to support and what bills may be of concern to women business owners.

News from the Governor's Office and GO-Biz

CalOSBA Announces Grants to Expand Small Business Assistance

The California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) announced grant awards to technical assistance and grantmaking partners of the California Dream Fund Program. The California Dream Fund Program is a one-time \$35 Million grant program that will provide microgrants to seed entrepreneurship and small business creation in California.

To qualify for the Dream Fund program, small startup businesses must complete a rigorous training and consulting program with one of seventeen technical assistance centers selected from CalOSBA's Technical Assistance Expansion Program (TAEP) network. Businesses that complete the program and qualify for the grant will be eligible to receive a microgrant of up to \$10,000.

Visit CalOSBA's [new website](#) for more information and view the [Funding Programs | California Office of the Small Business Advocate \(CalOSBA\)](#).

February Webinar: Showcasing the International Success of Black-Owned & Led Business

GO-Biz International is proud to partner with the U.S. Commercial Service and its Southern California offices on its "From Local to Global: Celebrating Diversity" event series. [Register here](#) for the first event on **Wednesday, February 23rd, at 11am**, which will feature stories of international business success from Black-owned & led Southern California-based businesses in honor of Black History Month. For questions about this event series, please contact [Emily Desai](#).

CalMatters Op-Ed R&D investments drive California innovation

By Dee Dee Myers

The governor recently signed a package of bills that will boost California's continuing economic recovery by protecting frontline workers who are impacted by COVID-19 while also investing in

those businesses that are creating jobs and providing essential goods and services to our communities.

This legislative package, developed in partnership with the Legislature amid the Omicron surge, underscores the important steps California has taken to protect workers and businesses over the last two years since COVID-19 wreaked havoc on our economy. In particular, it restores the tax credit for investments in research and development, including basic research, that are the foundation of California's unmatched innovation economy.

California outpaces all other states in research and development spending, accounting for more than one-fifth of the total U.S. R&D investments and nearly 30% of U.S. patents.

These investments helped create many of the incredible, life-changing technologies we now take for granted – smartphones, new pharmaceutical treatments, manufacturing breakthroughs, and even advancements in agriculture and farming, invented here in California...

Read the rest at [CalMatters](#).

California Supports up to 15 Small Businesses to Participate In 2022 Spring California-China Virtual Trade Mission

As a California China Trade and Investment Network (CTIN) member, the City of Sacramento China Trade Office has teamed up with GO-Biz and the U.S. Commercial Service to offer California businesses a virtual trade mission designed to link California exporters directly with buyers, potential partners, and distributors in the Chinese market through one-on-one online matchmaking meetings. The trade mission targets three industry sectors: Medical Device, Beauty and Personal Care products as well as Food Processing Machinery.

Learn more about the trade mission [here](#) and register [here](#) by **March 11th, 2022**.

Governor Newsom Signs Paid Sick Leave Extension, Expanded Relief for Small Businesses, and Historic Package to Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship

SB 113 provides \$6.1 billion in tax credits, grants and other relief for small businesses, including nearly \$500 million in tax cuts for restaurants and shuttered venues and \$5.5 billion in restored tax deductions and tax credits to spur innovation, including the R&D and NOL tax credits.

On February 9, 2022 Governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation extending COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for workers, and early budget action to provide an additional \$6.1 billion in tax relief, tax credits and direct grants for small businesses hit hard by the pandemic, bolstering the state's historic COVID relief efforts and investing in California's iconic entrepreneurial economy.

"As California continues to lead the nation's economic recovery, today's action deepens our commitment to supporting the workers and businesses that have sustained us all during this unprecedented pandemic and are driving our economy," said Governor Newsom. "We're ensuring that workers have the time they need to take care of themselves and their loved ones, expanding our nation-leading small business relief grant program and supporting the businesses whose innovation and entrepreneurial spirit help make California the 5th largest economy in the world."

Building on last year's robust support for small businesses impacted by the pandemic — including \$6.2 billion in tax relief for small businesses that received Paycheck Protection Program loans — SB 113 includes provisions that:

- **Provide a nearly \$500 million tax cut for restaurants and venues:** By conforming state tax policy for the federal Restaurant Revitalization Fund and federal Shuttered Venue Operators grant programs, grants received by such businesses will not be considered taxable by the state — translating into a tax cut totaling nearly \$500 million over the coming years.
- **Restore \$5.5 billion in tax credits and deductions for California businesses:** By restoring business tax credits, including for research and development and the net operating loss deduction for businesses one year early, the near-term benefit for such businesses is estimated to reach \$5.5 billion.
- **Invest \$150 million in COVID-19 relief grants for California's small businesses:** SB 113 invests an additional \$150 million in California's Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program to fund applicants on the waitlist — the program has provided grants of up to

\$25,000 for small businesses impacted by the pandemic.

Learn more about this historic early budget action [here](#). For the full text of the bills, visit [here](#).

Governor Newsom Unveils SMARTER Plan Charting California's Path Forward on Nation-Leading Pandemic Response

Building on lessons learned over the past two years and the state's commitment to equity, the SMARTER Plan focuses on continued readiness, awareness and flexibility to guide California's pandemic response

California has implemented the most robust vaccination and testing programs in the country, maintaining one of the lowest death rates among large states

As California emerges from the Omicron surge, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled the state's [SMARTER Plan](#), the next phase of California's pandemic response. Building on lessons learned over the past two years and the state's ongoing commitment to equity, the SMARTER Plan will guide California's strategic approach to managing COVID-19 while moving the state's recovery forward. Emphasizing continued readiness, awareness and flexibility, the Plan will ensure California can maintain its focus on communities that continue to be disproportionately impacted, and stay prepared to swiftly and effectively respond to emerging COVID-19 variants and changing conditions.

[Read the California SMARTER Plan: The Next Phase of California's COVID-19 Response here.](#)

The SMARTER Plan's core pillars and preparedness metrics focus on lifesaving public health measures and strategies the state has successfully used to slow the spread and protect Californians. Recognizing that each variant brings with it unique characteristics relative to the specific conditions in our neighborhoods and communities, the Plan preserves needed flexibility and ensures the state has the resources and capabilities in place to tackle the COVID-19 challenges that lie ahead:

- **Shots-** Vaccines are the most powerful weapon against hospitalization and serious illness. Under the Plan, California will maintain capacity to administer at least **200,000 vaccines per day** on top of existing pharmacy and provider infrastructure.
- **Masks-** Properly worn masks with good filtration help slow the spread of COVID-19 or other respiratory viruses. The state will maintain a stockpile of **75 million high quality masks** and the capability to distribute them as needed.

- Awareness- We will continue to stay aware of how COVID-19 is spreading and evolving variants, communicate clearly how people should protect themselves, and coordinate our state and local government response. California will maintain capability to promote vaccination, masking and other mitigation measures in all **58 counties** and support engagement with at least **150 community-based organizations**.
- Readiness- COVID-19 isn't going away and we need to be ready with the tools, resources and supplies that will allow us to quickly respond to protect public health and to keep the health care system well prepared. The state will maintain wastewater surveillance in all regions and enhance respiratory surveillance in the health care system while continuing to sequence at least **10 percent of positive** COVID-19 test specimens. The state will also maintain the ability to add **3,000** clinical staff within **2-3 weeks** of need and across various health care facility types.
- Testing- Getting the right type of tests - PCR or antigen - to where they are needed most. Testing will help California minimize the spread of COVID-19. California will maintain commercial and local public health capacity statewide to perform **at least 500,000 tests per day** - a combination of PCR and antigen.
- Education- California will continue to work to keep schools open and children safely in classrooms for in-person instruction. The state will expand by **25 percent school-based vaccination sites** supported by the state to increase vaccination rates as eligibility expands.
- Rx- Evolving and improving treatments will become increasingly available and critical as a tool to save lives. The state will maximize orders for the most clinically effective therapeutic available through federal partnerships, ensuring allocations of effective therapeutics are ordered **within 48-hours**.