



California Association for Bilingual Education

THE CAPITOL REPORT: A Legislative Update



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Close to the Home Stretch!

The Legislature will adjourn on September 13, 2019. These next few weeks will be a flurry of activity: last minute committee hearings, gutting and amending of bills, and last-minute amended bills. Several significant bills have made it off the “suspense file” of their respective houses and will now continue to move through the legislative process. They include, but are not limited to, the following bills. To read the texts of these bills, go to: www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Bills to Watch

AB 1319 (Arambula & Bonta) Migrant Students

As mentioned previously, this bill is co-sponsored by CABE & Californians Together.

The bill would allow migrant students to continue to attend their school of origin or stay in their district of origin, as specified, when their family moves to another district. The bill was approved by the Senate and is now on the Assembly floor waiting for approval of the Assembly on the Senate amendments.

AB 1505 (O’Donnell) Charter Schools: Petitions & Renewal

The bill was introduced to make necessary and timely reforms to charter school authorization, oversight, appeals, and renewals of charter schools. “The goal of the bill was achieving parity between charter schools and other public schools,” O’Donnell said. “Separate is not equal. We can’t have two systems that operate under two sets of rules.”

This bill has been a very controversial one. The governor’s office facilitated the negotiations between labor (CTA, CFT and others) and representatives of the statewide organizations representing charter schools on an agreement and amendments.

CABE was extremely concerned about a specific provision in the bill that would allow charter schools to hire non-credentialed teachers and teachers without appropriate authorizations. CABE and Californians Together voiced its opposition to this specific provision.

As a result of the efforts by the governor's office and negotiations with labor and charter school representatives, very carefully crafted amendments were agreed upon and made to AB 1505. I am happy to report that AB 1505, as amended August 30, 2019, requires:

- All charter school teachers to hold the credential **and authorization** required for their assignment. Effectively, this requirement begins with new hires for the 2020-21 school year.
- All charter school teachers, as of July 1, 2020, must have a CTC Certificate of Clearance (state level background check).
- Charter school teachers employed in the current year (2019-2020) must obtain the correct credential for their assignment by July 1, 2025.

The aforementioned amendments are not the only significant amendments made to AB 1505. Other significant amendments made to the bill include, but are not limited to, 1) the requirement that charter school teachers must possess a CTC Certificate of Clearance (state level background check); 2) that charter authorizers use the state accountability system as the basis for charter school renewal; and 3) allows charter authorizers to close a charter school for fiscal and governance concerns, or if the charter school is not serving all student populations.

The Senate Appropriations Committee moved and approved the bill and it is now on the Senate Floor for approval of the amendments and then approval of the bill itself. The full Senate must vote on the bill before September 13, the deadline for legislative action before it goes to Governor Newsom for his signature or veto.

Assemblyman O'Donnell did a fantastic job in ensuring that all students, regardless of whether they're in charter or non-charter public schools, will receive instruction by credentialed teachers and teachers with appropriate authorizations. *Thank you, Assemblyman O'Donnell!*

Stay tuned for further updates!

Proposed Tax Measures for 2020

Election time will be here before we know it! Campaigns will be gearing up and in full swing once the California legislature adjourns on September 13, 2019. In light of the fact that adequate funding of our schools continues to be an issue, expect to see initiatives seeking additional funding for public schools.

An initiative that qualified for the November 2020 ballot is from the Schools and Communities First Coalition. This initiative proposes to revise Proposition 13's 40-year-old limits on property taxes to increase the taxes from business and commercial properties. Their proposal for a "split-roll" tax would leave Prop. 13's tax protections for residential property owners intact, while raising an estimated \$11 billion annually from business and commercial properties. About \$4.5 billion would go to schools and community colleges and the rest to cities and counties that provide the bulk of the state's social services and health care. However, the Coalition is planning on revising this proposed initiative to state that small businesses would be exempted, but they must obtain, once again, more than 1 million signatures needed to put the initiative on next year's ballot — an expensive and possibly daunting challenge.

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) is also exploring whether to place a \$15 billion tax for K-12 schools, early education and community colleges before voters, on the statewide ballot in November 2020. With its partners, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the California State PTA and the Community College League of California (CCLC), a “Full and Fair Funding” election fund has been created, as well as a website to solicit support. CSBA’s proposal would bring in triple the amount of money for K-12 schools than the \$4.5 billion estimated under the split-roll proposal. Strong support and backing are needed from other organizations, such as CTA, whose financial and organizational support would be necessary in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. However, CTA, the California State PTA, the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), and individual school district boards have already joined dozens of housing, social justice and local government officials who have endorsed the split-roll initiative.

That could create a dilemma regarding whether to support either or both — or whether to actively discourage one initiative from moving ahead out of concern that two tax proposals on the same ballot would lower the chances that either would win.

So for now, CSBA’s proposal is still that, a proposal.

Stay tuned for further updates!