

The Quorum

January 2022: The Legislature is Back in Session

The California legislature reconvened on January 3rd. As we start this new session, let's review what this means for bills introduced in 2021, go over the 2022 budget, and discuss active bills that address the pediatric mental health crisis.

What are “two-year” bills?

In California we have a biennial, or two-year session. Currently, we are in the second half of the ongoing session. In 2021, the CA legislature proposed 2,421 bills of which 770 were signed into law. But what happens to bills proposed in 2021 that weren't sent to the Governor's desk? Well, these bills are aptly called “two-year bills,” because they move onto the second year of the biennial session, and still have a chance to become law. However, two-year bills must make it out of their house of origin by January 31, 2022, to stay alive. For example, if a bill was introduced in the Assembly, it must make it to the Senate by January 31st or it will fail to move forward/die.

Of note, the legislature has from now until February 18, 2022, to introduce NEW bills. After that date, no new bills can be introduced until the next biennial session in 2023.

What's going on with the 2022 Budget?

On Monday, January 10, 2022, Governor Newsom released his initial proposal for the 2022-23 CA state budget. CA is projecting a \$31 billion surplus in 2022, broadening the scope of social programs CA can focus on. The budget proposal plans to invest \$10 billion in new spending on what Newsom calls “five of California's biggest challenges: COVID-19, climate change, homelessness, inequality, and keeping our streets safe.”

The Governor's proposed budget has been sent to the legislature where budget committees will begin meeting in February. The budget will then take effect at the start of the next fiscal year in July.

Sources:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-01-10/california-governor-gavin-newsom-2022-budget-covid-climate-change>

<https://calmatters.org/politics/2022/01/california-budget-newsom/>

Are there active bills that pertain to pediatric behavioral and mental health?

Yes! There were numerous two-year bills that were acted upon the last two weeks:

[AB 58 \(Salas-D, Bakersfield\) Pupil Health: Suicide Prevention Policies and Training](#)

Description: Requires that local education agencies (LEAs) update their suicide prevention training materials and encourages LEAs to provide suicide awareness and prevention training to teachers annually beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Status: Two-year bill. Passed Assembly Education committee on 1/12, referred to Appropriations.

[AB 552 \(Quirk-Silva-D, Fullerton\) Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership Program](#)

Description: Authorizes community behavioral health programs and local education agencies to establish partnership programs to provide prevention, early intervention, and access to behavioral health services for pupils with serious emotional disturbances or substance use disorders.

Status: Two-year bill. Passed Assembly Health committee on 1/12, referred to Appropriations.

[SB 387 \(Portantino-D, Los Angeles\) Pupil Health: School Employee and Pupil Training: Youth Mental and Behavioral Health](#)

Description: Would require local education agencies to ensure that 75 percent of its classified employees who have direct contact with pupils at school have received specific youth behavioral health training.

Status: Two-year bill. Passed Senate Education committee on 1/12. Set for Appropriations hearing on 1/18.

The Quorum is a monthly policy spotlight. For any inquiries, please email Chapter 2 legislative and policy analyst, Karinne Van Groningen, at KVanGroningen@mednet.ucla.edu

Past Issues:

December 2021: [An Update on School Based Vaccine Mandates](#)

November 2021: [The Pediatric Mental Health Crisis](#)