

The Quorum

September 2022: Updates from Sacramento

August 31st was the final day for bills to be passed by the California State Legislature. Policymakers burned the midnight oil, with the floor session going until 1:31am, as they worked to complete their task, and fight for (and against) a host of bills that will impact Californians. In our previous issue of “The Quorum”, we discussed several bills impacting child health that were still in play. Let’s see which of those and other key bills have made it to the Governor’s desk, and which did not survive.

Bills that Died:

SB 866: This bill would have lowered the age for minors to consent for FDA-approved vaccines down to 15 years-old. AAP-CA2 and AAP-CA, among many other advocates, worked hard to champion this bill, but it was not able to get enough support in the assembly. After multiple days of delayed votes and advocating by Senator Wiener and others, the decision was made to not bring the bill to a vote.

SB 918: SB 918 was a gun safety bill which would have placed new limits on concealed carried weapons throughout California. In a suspense-filled moment, this bill fell 1 vote short of passing, in large part because lawmakers took a gamble in trying to make the law effective immediately, which required a 54-vote supermajority which was not able to be obtained.

Bills that Passed:

AB 2273: The California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act will work to improve child privacy and safety on the internet, requiring websites that are likely to be accessed by children, to evaluate and mitigate safety risks.

SB 1142, AB 1918, AB 2134: These bills are part of a package of reproductive health bills which will create an abortion support fund, work to recruit and train reproductive health providers, and provide funding for abortion providers to care for low-income communities.

SB 1137: After a long, contentious debate in the legislature, this new climate and health-related bill passed, which will ban new oil drilling within 3200 feet of schools, hospitals, homes, and other protected spaces. This bill was based on data showing that people who live near these “urban oil wells” have higher rates of asthma and other adverse health effects.

SB 107: This bill protects out-of-state transgender children and their families from facing legal penalties for seek gender-affirming care.

Next stop for all of the bills that passed is to be signed into law (or vetoed) by Governor Newsom by September 30th!

References:

1. <https://apnews.com/article/gun-violence-us-supreme-court-california-politics-anthony-portantino-8f491b7dc121a437632442e4be80c5b9>
2. <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article265107824.html>
3. <https://www.theverge.com/2022/8/30/23326822/california-ab-2273-passes-senate-children-social-media-bill-gavin-newsom>
4. <https://www.capradio.org/articles/2022/09/01/here-are-the-major-bills-passed-by-california-lawmakers-in-2022/>
5. <https://theconversation.com/los-angeles-long-troubled-history-with-urban-oil-drilling-is-nearing-an-end-after-years-of-health-concerns-175983>

The Quorum is a monthly policy spotlight. For any inquiries, please email Chapter 2 legislative and policy analyst, Kamaal Jones, at KamaalJones.AAP@gmail.com

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