

# The Quorum

## September 2023: Updates from Sacramento

With the 2023 portion of the legislative session coming to a close, now is a great time for us to get updated on what is happening with key policies that we are tracking across the state. The bills which have passed both the Assembly and the Senate, are now on their way to Governor Newsom, where they will need to be signed into law by October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Because California works within a two-year legislative session, many bills that did not pass this year will become “two-year bills”. This means that they will have a second chance to be passed into law. Two-year bills must pass their house of origin (assembly or senate) by January 31<sup>st</sup> of 2024, or else they are officially “dead” bills. For those bills which have already passed out of their house of origin (i.e. a senate bill which is now in the assembly, or vice versa), they will generally follow along the same timeline and deadlines as any other regular bill.

As a reminder, the chapter has set 3 main advocacy priorities for this legislative session: (1) Behavioral and Mental Health, (2) Child poverty (and affiliated programs), (3) Childcare/Early Childhood Education. Below is an update on some of the key bills we have been tracking as a chapter:

### **Behavioral and Mental Health**

#### **AB 665: Minor Consent to Mental Health Services**

This bill would allow children 12 years and older to consent for mental health services on their own (not including use of psychotropic medications). Current law already allows children with private insurance to consent on their own, but has more restrictions for children on Medi-Cal. This bill will eliminate those additional restrictions for children on Medi-Cal.

**Status:** Passed both the Assembly and the Senate. Is awaiting signature from the Governor.

#### **AB 456: Campus Mental Health Hotlines**

This bill would improve the mental health hotline system for state-funded college/university systems.

**Status:** Did not pass out of assembly. Is a 2-year bill. It has until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to pass the assembly or it becomes inactive/“dead”.

### **SB 291: Pupil Rights: Recess**

This bill would prohibit schools from taking recess from students as a punitive measure unless there is a safety concern.

*Status:* As of the time this article is being written, this bill has passed out of the Senate, and has passed the Assembly education committee. It has been stuck in the Assembly appropriations committee and is likely to become a “two-year bill”.

### **Child Poverty**

#### **AB 85: Social Determinants of Health Screening**

This bill would require health plans to provide reimbursement for physicians to complete social determinants of health screening.

*Status:* As of the time this article is being written, this bill has passed out of the Assembly, and has passed out of the Senate Appropriations committee. It is awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor to see if it will make it to the Governor.

#### **SB 348: Pupil Meals**

This bill would improve the nutritional content for meals being provided by schools.

*Status:* Passed both the Assembly and the Senate. Is awaiting signature from the Governor.

### **Early Childhood Education**

#### **AB 596 and SB 380: Early Learning and Care Rate Reform**

These bills are companion bills, which were both introduced in their respective houses. They would equitably increase funding for childcare workers and call for a pause in families having to pay fees for subsidized childcare while a sliding scale fee system is being put in place.

*Status:* Both of these bills passed out of their houses of origin but have as of now been placed on hold. They are now two-year bills. Because they have already passed out of their houses of origin, they will have until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 to make it out of the legislature and to the Governor’s desk for signature.

References:

1. <https://californiaglobe.com/fr/what-are-two-year-bills/>
2. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB665](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB665)
3. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB456](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB456)
4. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB291](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB291)
5. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB85](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB85)
6. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB348](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB348)
7. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB596](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB596)
8. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB380](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB380)

*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](mailto:KamaalJones.AAP@gmail.com)*

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