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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE IN RECESS



The final day of legislative session was a bit frenzied! Ten Senators were forced to quarantine and had to vote remotely for several days due to possible COVID-19 exposure. Bills were “talked to death” as the Legislature neared its midnight deadline. Debate on each bill was limited in the Senate due to the time constraints faced to get all bills heard and acted upon before midnight.



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The icing on the cake, however, was seeing an Assembly Member on the Assembly Floor, holding her crying 1-month-old baby, speak in favor of a housing bill because her request to vote by proxy was denied! Pretty crazy! An apology to the Assembly Member has been given. Tempers were short, but the Legislature managed to get its work done! Final recess for the California legislature began upon adjournment at midnight on August 31, 2020. They return on December 7, 2020 to begin work again.

Let’s remember, though, that the Legislature was shut down for nearly two and a half months starting in March 2020. Upon their return, health and safety guidelines established due to COVID-19 had to be met. Guidance and procedures were established for voting by proxy by Senators and for receiving comments virtually from stakeholders, lobbyists and the public on legislation continuing to go through the process.



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Bills acted favorably upon by the Legislature are now before Governor Newsom. He can sign or veto a bill. Unless a bill is an urgency bill, all bills signed by the Governor go into effect on January 1, 2021.

Education bills supported by CABE and before Governor Newsom for action are identified below.

STATE LEGISLATION

AB 331 (Medina) High School Graduation Requirements: Ethnic Studies

(A-8/3/21)

Status: Governor's Desk

Summary: Commencing with the graduating class of 2029-30, requires pupils enrolled in grades 9–12 to complete a semester-long course in ethnic studies in order to graduate from high school; requires local educational agencies and charter schools to offer a one-semester course



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in ethnic studies by the 2025-26 school year; permits the ethnic studies course requirement to be met through several course options, including locally developed courses and courses aligned to the ethnic studies model curriculum required to be developed under current law; and requires that instruction and materials used in these courses be appropriate for use with a broad range of pupils, among other requirements. The Senate amendments include, but are not limited to, changing the effective date of the act from the 2024-25 school

year to pupils graduating in the 2029-30 school year and, commencing with the 2025-26 school year, requiring local educational agencies and charter schools with pupils enrolled in grades 9–12 to offer a one-semester course in ethnic studies.

Position: Support

AB 1835 (Weber) LCFF: Supplemental and Concentration Grants (I-1/6/2020)

Status: Governor's Desk

Summary: This bill requires each local educational agency (LEA) to annually identify and report unspent Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) supplemental and concentration grant funds and clarifies that the unspent funds must continue be used to increase or improve services for unduplicated pupils in future years.



Position: Support

AB 1865 (Assembly Committee on Budget) School Finance: Education Budget Trailer Bill (A-8/28/2020)

Status: Assembly Third Reading: Dead

Summary: This bill makes clarifying changes and technical corrections associated with changes to education programs adopted as part of the Budget Act of 2020. The 2020 Budget Act included various changes to education programs; AB 1865 makes amendments and corrections to statutory provisions that are necessary to implement the 2020 Budget Act.



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Position: Watch

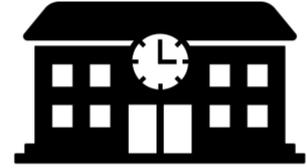
SB 820 (Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) School Finance: Education Budget Trailer Bill

(A-8/27/2020)

Status: Governor's Desk

Summary: This bill makes clarifying changes and technical corrections associated with changes to education programs adopted as part of the Budget Act of 2020. Assembly Amendments delete the Senate version of the bill and instead add the current language.

Position: Watch



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Normally, the Governor has 12 days after receiving a bill to decide to sign or veto it, or a bill will become law automatically without his or her signature. However, the Governor has 30 days to make this decision on bills submitted to him on or after September 1, 2020. Therefore, Governor Newsom has to take action on bills on or before September 30, 2020. A comprehensive legislative report on outcomes of legislation will be provided in early October. Stay tuned!