

2020: End of Session Summary

CA Legislation



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Overview

California's 2020 legislative session was stunned by the impacts of COVID-19 and wildfires. Legislation passed this cycle seeks to address the vital needs of California residents. The End of Session Summary for Alameda County Social Services (SSA) will focus on key 2020 California chaptered legislation with specific impacts to SSA departments and the children, families, and individuals it serves. The Summary will be inclusive of notable legislative items passed within the legislature but were later vetoed by the Governor. Unless otherwise noted, chaptered bills are scheduled to take effect on January 1st, 2021. If you are interested in reviewing the complete text of any bill, click on the hyperlink of the bill to view.

Policy Areas of Focus:



- **Agency-Wide** | Disaster Preparedness, Health Care, Homeless, Immigration, SOGIE
- **Adult & Aging Services (AAS)** | Adult Protective Services, Area Agency on Aging (AAA), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Public Administrator/Public Guardian-Conservator, and Veterans Services
- **Children & Family Services (CFS)** | Emergency Child Abuse, In-Home and Out-of-Home, Adoption Services, and Foster Care
- **Workforce & Benefits Administration (WBA)** | CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and Medi-Cal
- **Workforce Development Board (WDB)***

Chaptered and vetoed bill reports were extracted by the Office of Policy. This document reflects currently available information. It is important to note that true local impact will be dependent on upon guidance and information from the State which remains pending.

Method of Tracking: The Office of Policy utilized CapitolTrack, a California focused legislative software, to track **498** bills this legislative cycle.

Section I | Chaptered Bills

1.

Agency-Wide |

Disaster Preparedness, Health Care, Homeless, Immigration, SOGIE

Chaptered Legislation - Agency-Wide

[AB 2213](#) ([Limón D](#)) **Office of Emergency Services: planning guidance: telecommunications.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/18/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law establishes the Office of Emergency Services (OES) within the office of the Governor and requires the OES, among other duties, to develop model guidelines for local governmental agencies and community-based organizations planning to develop a disaster registry program. This bill would require the OES and California Volunteers, in coordination with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, to develop planning guidance to identify volunteers and donation management resources that could assist in responding to or recovering from local, tribal, regional, national, or international disasters, as specified. The bill would require the OES to publish and distribute the initial planning guidance, once developed, and update the Legislature on the status of the planning guidance in a written report submitted no later than May 1, 2022.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Disaster Preparedness

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

[AB 2218](#) ([Santiago D](#)) **Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/26/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would establish the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund, under the administration of the office, for the purpose of funding grants, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to organizations serving people that identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex (TGI), to create or fund TGI-specific housing programs and partnerships with hospitals, health care clinics, and other medical providers to provide TGI-focused health care, as defined, and related education programs for health care providers.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Area Agency on Aging, Children and Family Services, Health Care, Older Adults

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

[AB 3133](#) ([Aguiar-Curry D](#)) **Refugees: resettlement.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/28/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would prohibit a refugee from being denied resettlement in California based on any criterion, method of administration, or practice that has the purpose or effect of discriminating on the basis of specified protected characteristics.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Immigration

Associations: CCWRO Support

[SB 406](#) ([Pan D](#)) **Health care: omnibus bill.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would delete the requirement that a plan or a health insurer comply with the requirement to cover preventive health services without cost sharing to the extent required by federal law, and would instead require a group or individual health care service plan contract or health insurer to, at a minimum, provide coverage for specified preventive services without any cost-sharing requirements for those preventive services, thereby indefinitely extending those requirements.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Health Care, Medi-Cal

SB 855 (Wiener D) Health coverage: mental health or substance use disorders.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/25/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

The California Mental Health Parity Act requires every health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2000, that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of severe mental illnesses of a person of any age, and of serious emotional disturbances of a child under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions, as specified. Existing law requires those benefits to include, among other things, outpatient services, inpatient hospital services, partial hospital services, and prescription drugs, if the plan contract or policy includes coverage for prescription drugs. This bill would revise and recast those provisions, and would instead require a health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, as defined, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Health Care, Mental Health

Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 1065 (Hertzberg D) CalWORKs: homeless assistance.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/25/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states. Current state law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which, through a combination of state and county funds and federal funds received through the TANF program, each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Current law entitles a family to receive an allowance for specified nonrecurring special needs after a family has used all available liquid resources in excess of \$100, as specified, with the exception of funds deposited in a

Section I | Chaptered Bills

2.

Adult & Aging Services (AAS) |

Adult Protective Services, Area Agency on Aging (AAA), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Public Administrator/Public Guardian-Conservator, and Veterans Services

Chaptered Legislation - AAS

[AB 1766](#) ([Bloom D](#)) **Licensed adult residential facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly: data collection: residents with a serious mental disorder.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would require the State Department of Social Services to collect information and send a report to each county's department of mental health or behavioral health, beginning May 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, of all licensed adult residential facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly, as described, that accept a specified federal rate and accept residents with a serious mental disorder, as defined, and the number of licensed beds at each facility. The bill would require the department, beginning May 1, 2021, and quarterly thereafter, to send to those county departments a report of licensed adult residential facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly that closed permanently in the prior quarter, as specified. The bill would require the department to notify the county mental or behavioral health department within 3 business days upon receiving notice that a licensed adult residential facility or residential care facility for the elderly intends to close permanently.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Adult Protective Services, Area Agency on Aging, Disabilities, Mental Health, Older Adults

Associations: CWDA Watch

[SB 364](#) ([Mitchell D](#)) **Change in ownership: nonresidential active solar energy systems: initiative.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/10/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

The California Constitution generally limits the maximum rate of ad valorem tax on real property to 1% of the full cash value of the property and defines "full cash value" for these purposes as the appraised value of real property when purchased, newly constructed, or a change in ownership has occurred after the 1975 assessment. Pursuant to constitutional authorization, existing property tax law excludes from the definition of "newly constructed" for these purposes the construction or addition of any active solar energy system, as defined, through the 2023–24 fiscal year. Under current property tax law, this exclusion remains in effect only until there is a subsequent change in ownership, but an active solar energy system that qualifies for the exclusion before January 1, 2025, will continue to receive the exclusion until there is a subsequent change in ownership. Current law defines and sets forth parameters for determining a change in ownership for real property. This bill would provide that for purposes of the provisions of the California Constitution described above, real property includes improvements, but not personal property.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Area Agency on Aging, Asset Building, Older Adults, Veterans

Associations: CWDA Watch

[SB 596](#) ([Stern D](#)) **In-home supportive services: additional higher energy allowance.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would authorize a county welfare department to use materials provided by an electrical corporation that is serving the county to inform each applicant or recipient of benefits under the IHSS program that the applicant or recipient may be eligible to receive that higher energy allowance and any advanced notifications that are provided by a public utility when the public utility plans to deenergize portions of the electrical distribution system or in an emergency.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Adult Protective Services, Area Agency on Aging, IHSS, Older Adults

Associations: CSL Support, CWDA Watch and Engage

Advisory Boards/Commissions/Councils: Advisory Commission on Aging

Section I | Chaptered Bills

3.

Children & Family Services (CFS) |

Emergency Child Abuse, In-Home and Out-of-Home, Adoption Services, and Foster Care

Chaptered Legislation - CFS 12/3/2020

[AB 175](#) ([Gipson D](#)) **Foster care: rights.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/2/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law provides that it is the policy of the state that all minors and nonminors in foster care have specified rights, including, among others, the right to receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services, the right to be placed in out-of-home care according to their gender identity, regardless of the gender or sex listed in their court or child welfare records, the right to review their own case plan and plan for permanent placement if the child is 12 years of age or older and in a permanent placement, and the right to attend Independent Living Program classes and activities if the child meets applicable age requirements. This bill would instead require all children and nonminor dependents in foster care to have these rights and would revise various rights, including providing the right to review their own case plan and plan for permanent placement to children 10 years of age or older regardless of whether they are in a permanent placement and the right to not be prevented from attending Independent Living Program classes by the caregiver as a punishment.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care, Gender Identity/Expression, Information Technology, Personal Identifiable Information

Associations: CWDA Watch

[AB 189](#) ([Kamlager-Dove D](#)) **Child abuse or neglect: mandated reporters: autism service personnel.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/9/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act requires a mandated reporter, as defined, to report whenever they, in their professional capacity or within the scope of their employment, have knowledge of or observed a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. Failure by a mandated reporter to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 6 months of confinement in a county jail, by a fine of \$1,000, or by both that imprisonment and fine. This bill would add qualified autism service providers, qualified autism service professionals, and qualified autism service paraprofessionals, as defined, to the list of individuals who are mandated reporters.

SSA Position: Support

Subject: Children and Family Services

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

[AB 439](#) ([Stone, Mark D](#)) **Juveniles: competency.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 7/31/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law requires a court, if it has a doubt that a minor who is subject to any juvenile proceedings is competent, to suspend all proceedings. Upon suspension of proceedings, current law requires the court to appoint an expert, as specified, to evaluate the minor. Current law states that these provisions do not authorize or require the placement of a minor who is incompetent in a developmental center or community facility operated by the State Department of Developmental Services without a determination by a regional center director, or the director's designee, that the minor has a developmental disability and is eligible for services, as specified. This bill would delete the statement that the provisions above do not authorize or require the placement of a minor who is incompetent in a developmental center or community facility operated by the State Department of Developmental Services without a determination by a regional center director, or the director's designee, that the minor has a developmental disability and is eligible for services.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Disabilities, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Watch

[AB 465](#) ([Eggman D](#)) **Mental health workers: supervision.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/25/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law regulates provision of programs and services relating to mental health and requires the

creation of community programs to increase access to, and quality of, community-based mental health services. This bill would require any program permitting mental health professionals to respond to emergency mental health crisis calls in collaboration with law enforcement to ensure the program is supervised by a licensed mental health professional, including, among others, a licensed clinical social worker, except as specified.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Juvenile Justice

Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 685 (Reyes D) COVID-19: imminent hazard to employees: exposure: notification: serious violations.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/17/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would authorize the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, when, in its opinion, a place of employment, operation, or process, or any part thereof, exposes workers to the risk of infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19), so as to constitute an imminent hazard to employees, to prohibit the performance of that operation or process, or entry into that place of employment. The bill would require the division to provide a notice thereof to the employer, to be posted in a conspicuous place at the place of employment. The bill would require such a prohibition to be limited to the immediate area in which the imminent hazard exists, as specified. The bill would require such a prohibition to be issued in a manner so as not to materially interrupt the performance of critical governmental functions essential to ensuring public health and safety functions or the delivery of electrical power or water.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: Alliance for Children's Rights Support

AB 718 (Eggman D) Dependent children: documents.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/2/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law establishes the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which is permitted to adjudicate certain children to be dependents of the court under certain circumstances, and prescribes various hearings and other procedures for these purposes. Existing law prohibits the court from terminating dependency jurisdiction over a nonminor who has reached 18 years of age until a hearing is conducted and the county welfare department has submitted a report verifying that specified information, documents, and services have been provided to the nonminor. This bill would revise and recast these provisions to, among other things, require the county welfare department to submit reports at the first regularly scheduled review hearing after a dependent child has attained 16 years of age and at the last regularly scheduled review hearing before a dependent child attains 18 years of age, and at every regularly scheduled review hearing thereafter, verifying that the county has provided certain of the above-described information, documents, and services, and additional financial literacy information, to the child.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

AB 748 (Gipson D) Nonminor dependents.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/9/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law prescribes the circumstances upon which the court appoints counsel for a child, a nonminor dependent, or their parent or guardian in dependency proceedings. Under current law, in the case of a nonminor dependent, representation by counsel is not provided for a parent, unless the parent is receiving court-ordered family reunification services. This bill would require the court to hold a dispositional proceeding for a youth 18 years of age if the youth was found to be a minor within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court at a specified hearing prior to the youth attaining 18 years of age, and was continuously detained, as specified, and the youth has provided informed consent to the dispositional proceeding. For purposes of these provisions, the fact that a youth has attained 18 years of age would not be cause to relieve counsel appointed in dependency proceedings.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: Alliance for Children's Rights Support, Children Now, CWDA Watch

[AB 819](#) (Stone, Mark D) Foster care.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/12/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law requires foster family agencies to prepare a written report on an applicant's capacity to foster, adopt, and provide legal guardianship of a child based on information gathered through the resource family application and assessment processes, and requires counties and foster family agencies, when a resource family seeks approval by a subsequent foster family agency or transfer of their approval to a county, to request or provide the above-specified written report, including any updates to the report. This bill would require counties and foster family agencies, when a resource family seeks approval by a subsequent foster family agency or transfer of their approval to a county, to request or provide documents in the resource family file maintained by a county or the resource family case record maintained by a foster family agency, including any updates to the file or record.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Watch and Engage

[AB 865](#) (Reyes D) Resource families: training.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/12/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would, commencing January 1, 2021, require counties to include information on providing care and supervision to children who have been commercially sexually exploited as part of the mandatory preapproval caregiver training. The bill would require resource families that care for children who are 10 years of age or older to attend, within 12 months of approval as a resource family, a training on how to use best practices for providing care and supervision to children who have been commercially sexually exploited. By creating new duties for counties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA SIC and Engage

[AB 925](#) (Gloria D) Protective orders: confidential information regarding minors.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/12/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law authorizes a person who has suffered harassment to seek a temporary restraining order and an order prohibiting the harassment. Current law authorizes a minor or the minor's legal guardian to petition the court to have information regarding the minor that was obtained while issuing a protective order pursuant to this provision to be kept confidential. Disclosure or misuse of information ordered to be kept confidential is enforced as a civil contempt of court, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000. This bill would require a notice to be sent to the respondent of a petition seeking an order to keep information confidential that identifies the information that has been made confidential and a statement that a disclosure is punishable by a monetary fine. The bill would authorize a court, either on its own motion at any time or upon a petition filed by a person, to grant a disclosure of information ordered to be kept confidential to certain individuals or entities as necessary to prevent harassment or if it is in the best interest of the minor.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Foster Care, Personal Identifiable Information, Public Safety

[AB 1061](#) (Gipson D) Foster care.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/12/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Prior to making a change in the placement of a dependent child, current law requires a social worker or placing agency to develop and implement a placement preservation strategy to preserve the dependent child's placement. If a placement change is necessary, current law requires the social worker or placing agency to serve written notice of that change on specified parties at least 14 days prior to the change. Current law requires complaints under these provisions to be investigated by the Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson, and requires the office to provide the findings of an investigation to the county child welfare director or their designee. This bill would delete references to placing agencies, would extend the application of these provisions to probation-supervised youth in foster care placement, and make related changes.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care
Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 1068 (Cooley D) Juveniles: dependency: child and family teams.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/12/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law defines a "child and family team" as a group of individuals who are convened by a placing agency and engaged through a variety of team-based processes to help achieve positive outcomes for a child's or youth's safety, permanency, and well-being. Current law requires that information exchanged among the child and family team be received in confidence for the limited purpose of providing necessary services and supports to the child or youth and family and prohibits the information from being further disclosed, except as specified. This bill would define a "child and family team meeting" as a convening of all or some members of the child and family team and would require a child and family team meeting to conform to specified requirements, including, among others, that a notification be provided to the child or youth, their parent or guardian, and the caregiver upon the scheduling of a meeting, and that the child's court-appointed educational rights holder be invited to the meeting under certain circumstances.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care
Associations: Alliance for Children's Rights Support, CWDA Watch and Engage

AB 1145 (Garcia, Cristina D) Child abuse: reportable conduct.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/26/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act requires a mandated reporter, as defined, to make a report to a specified agency whenever the mandated reporter, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. Current law provides that "child abuse or neglect" for these purposes includes "sexual assault,,". This bill would provide that "sexual assault" for these purposes does not include voluntary sodomy, oral copulation, or sexual penetration, if there are no indicators of abuse, unless that conduct is between a person who is 21 years of age or older and a minor who is under 16 years of age.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Children and Family Services
Associations: CWDA Watch

AB 1301 (Cooley D) Child welfare: adoption.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/12/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would, beginning July 1, 2020, require county child welfare agencies to compensate licensed private adoption agencies for the costs of supporting families through the process of adopting children and nonminor dependents who are eligible for the Adoption Assistance Program. The bill would prescribe the amount and methodology for compensation, and would require the department to establish reimbursement procedures in consultation with the counties and private adoption agencies. After all reimbursements are made under these provisions, the bill would authorize a county to use any unspent funds for additional activities related to permanency, as specified. The bill would require the department to work with counties and representatives of adoption agencies to ensure a smooth transition under these provisions, as specified, and would require those entities to develop language for certain placement agreements, as specified.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Children and Family Services
Associations: CWDA Support (1)

AB 1373 (Patterson R) Adoption.

Current Text: Chaptered: 8/30/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would allow a stepparent adoption in which the child was born during the marriage or domestic partnership through a gestational surrogacy process brought about by one or both spouses or partners to use the same procedure as a stepparent adoption in which one of the spouses or partners

gave birth to the child during the marriage or domestic partnership.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Foster Care
Associations: CWDA Watch

[AB 1929](#) (Rubio, Blanca D) Child abuse and neglect reporting.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law, only until January 1, 2021, authorizes certain county welfare agencies to develop a pilot program for internet-based reporting of child abuse and neglect, as specified, by specified mandated reporters. Existing law, only until January 1, 2021, also requires the State Department of Social Services to consult with the County Welfare Directors Association of California and the county welfare agencies of the individual counties to determine which counties may be involved in the pilot program and to oversee and administer the pilot program. Existing law requires a county that chooses to participate in the pilot program to hire an evaluator to monitor implementation of the program, to develop outcome measures that determine the effectiveness of the pilot program of the county, as specified, and to report to specified committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2020, on the effectiveness of the pilot program. Current law authorizes the department to conclude a county pilot program prior to January 1, 2021, if the evaluation and monitoring indicate that implementation of the program compromises the safety of children. This bill would extend operation of the pilot program indefinitely and would permit the reporting system developed to receive reports from any mandated reporter.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Children and Family Services
Associations: CWDA Support (2)

[AB 1963](#) (Chu D) Child abuse or neglect: mandated reporters.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would add a human resource employee of a business with 5 or more employees that employs minors to the list of individuals who are mandated reporters. The bill would also add, for the purposes of reporting sexual abuse, an adult whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of minors in the performance of the minors' duties in the workplace of a business with 5 or more employees to the list of individuals who are mandated reporters. The bill would require those employers to provide their employees who are mandated reporters with training on identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

SSA Position: Watch
Subject: Children and Family Services, Early Education, Foster Care
Associations: CWDA Watch

[AB 1979](#) (Friedman D) Foster youth: housing.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/25/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law requires county agencies that place children in foster care to conduct an evaluation of the county's placement resources and programs in relation to the needs of children placed in out-of-home care, and requires county placement agencies to specifically examine placements that are out of county and determine the reason the placement was necessary. This bill would additionally require a county placement agency to conduct an evaluation of the county's placement resources and programs in relation to the needs of nonminor dependents and to examine its ability to meet the emergency housing needs of nonminor dependents, as specified.

SSA Position: Recommend Support
Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care
Associations: Alliance for Children's Rights Support, CAPPa Support, Children Now, CWDA Support (1)

[AB 2218](#) (Santiago D) Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/26/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would establish the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund, under the administration of the office, for the purpose of funding grants, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to organizations serving people

that identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex (TGI), to create or fund TGI-specific housing programs and partnerships with hospitals, health care clinics, and other medical providers to provide TGI-focused health care, as defined, and related education programs for health care providers.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Area Agency on Aging, Children and Family Services, Health Care, Older Adults

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

AB 2944 (Stone, Mark D) Foster care.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/18/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law, as part of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), requires the State Department of Social Services to implement a resource family approval process, and directs counties and foster family agencies, to approve resource families, as defined, in lieu of licensing foster family homes, certifying foster homes by foster family agencies, approving relatives and nonrelative extended family members as foster care providers, and approving guardians and adoptive families. Current law requires a foster family agency to, and authorizes a county to, conduct a reference check of a resource family applicant before approval by contacting specified entities, including any foster family agencies that have certified the applicant. This bill would, among other things, clarify that the reference check is to determine whether it is safe and appropriate approve the resource family, and would require that a foster family agency that has previously certified the applicant or approved the applicant as a resource family to divulge information, as specified, regarding the applicant within 20 business days of being contacted by a foster family agency or county conducting a reference check.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Child Care, Children and Family Services, Early Education, Foster Care

ACR 140 (Stone, Mark D) Positive Parenting Awareness Month.

Current Text: Chaptered: 2/13/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

This measure would designate the month of January 2020 as Positive Parenting Awareness Month in California.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Early Education, Education, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

SB 860 (Beall D) Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program: postsecondary education financial aid applications.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

As part of the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, current law authorizes a county office of education, or a consortium of county offices of education, to apply to the Superintendent for grant funding to operate an education-based foster youth services coordinating program. As a condition of receiving funds, existing law requires a program to develop and implement a foster youth services plan that includes, among other things, a description of how the local program will facilitate coordination with local postsecondary educational institutions to ensure foster youth pupils meet admission requirements and access programs that support their matriculation needs. This bill would require the plan to also describe how the program will coordinate efforts to ensure, to the extent possible, the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream Act Application for foster youth pupils who are in grade 12.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Support (3)

SB 902 (Wiener D) Planning and zoning: housing development: density.

Current Text: Amended: 5/21/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would authorize a local government to pass an ordinance, notwithstanding any local restrictions on adopting zoning ordinances, to zone any parcel for up to 10 units of residential density per parcel, at a height specified by the local government in the ordinance, if the parcel is located in a transit-rich area, a jobs-rich area, or an urban infill site, as those terms are defined. In this regard, the bill would require

the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with the Office of Planning and Research, to determine jobs-rich areas and publish a map of those areas every 5 years, commencing January 1, 2022, based on specified criteria.

SB 907 (Archuleta D) Child abuse or neglect investigation: military notification.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would require a county child welfare department investigating a case of child abuse or neglect to determine if the parent or guardian is an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States. The bill would authorize the county child welfare department to develop and adopt memoranda of understanding with military installations that would govern the investigation of allegations of child abuse or neglect against active duty service members, as specified. The bill would specify that these provisions do not limit or change the responsibilities of a county child welfare department with respect to investigations of, or responses to, allegations of abuse or neglect.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Watch

Section I | Chaptered Bills

4.

Workforce & Benefits Administration (WBA) | *CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and Medi-Cal*

Chaptered Legislation - WBA

[AB 3073](#) ([Wicks D](#)) **CalFresh: preenrollment.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would require the State Department of Social Services, no later than September 1, 2022, to issue an all-county letter containing recommendations and suggested methods for county human services agencies to partner with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and county jails to enroll otherwise eligible applicants for the CalFresh program to ensure that an applicant's benefits may begin as soon as possible upon reentry of the applicant into the community from the state prison or a county jail. The bill would require the all-county letter to include specified information on the benefits of enrolling formerly incarcerated individuals into the CalFresh program, the acceptable forms of identification needed to apply for CalFresh benefits, and information on how to connect individuals released from the state prison with employment or employment and training opportunities.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: CalFresh

Associations: CCWRO Support

[AB 3133](#) ([Aguiar-Curry D](#)) **Refugees: resettlement.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/28/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would prohibit a refugee from being denied resettlement in California based on any criterion, method of administration, or practice that has the purpose or effect of discriminating on the basis of specified protected characteristics.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Immigration

Associations: CCWRO Support

[SB 214](#) ([Dodd D](#)) **Medi-Cal: California Community Transitions program.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current federal law establishes the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration, which is designed to achieve various objectives with respect to institutional and home- and community-based long-term care services provided under state Medicaid programs. Under the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration, an eligible individual is required, among other qualifications, to have resided in a inpatient facility for at least 90 consecutive days. This bill would require the department to provide services consistent with the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration for transitioning eligible individuals out of an inpatient facility who have not resided in the facility for at least 90 consecutive days. A Medi-Cal beneficiary who has resided in an inpatient facility for at least 90 consecutive days would be ineligible for services under the bill, except as specified.

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Area Agency on Aging, Medi-Cal, Older Adults

Associations: CWDA Watch, EBLC Support

[SB 406](#) ([Pan D](#)) **Health care: omnibus bill.**

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would delete the requirement that a plan or a health insurer comply with the requirement to cover preventive health services without cost sharing to the extent required by federal law, and would instead require a group or individual health care service plan contract or health insurer to, at a minimum, provide coverage for specified preventive services without any cost-sharing requirements for those preventive services, thereby indefinitely extending those requirements.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Health Care, Medi-Cal

SB 855 (Wiener D) Health coverage: mental health or substance use disorders.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/25/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

The California Mental Health Parity Act requires every health care service plan contract or disability

The California Mental Health Parity Act requires every health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2000, that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of severe mental illnesses of a person of any age, and of serious emotional disturbances of a child under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions, as specified. Existing law requires those benefits to include, among other things, outpatient services, inpatient hospital services, partial hospital services, and prescription drugs, if the plan contract or policy includes coverage for prescription drugs. This bill would revise and recast those provisions, and would instead require a health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, as defined, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Health Care, Mental Health

Associations: CWDA Watch

SB 1065 (Hertzberg D) CalWORKs: homeless assistance.

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/25/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states. Current state law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which, through a combination of state and county funds and federal funds received through the TANF program, each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Current law entitles a family to receive an allowance for specified nonrecurring special needs after a family has used all available liquid resources in excess of \$100, as specified, with the exception of funds deposited in a certain restricted account. This bill would except homeless assistance from that \$100 liquid resources limit.

SSA Position: Recommend Support w/ Amendments

Subject: Homeless

Associations: CCWRO Support, WCLP Support

SB 1232 (Glazer D) CalWORKs: postsecondary education.

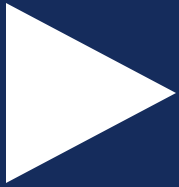
Current Text: Chaptered: 9/30/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would require that specified CalWORKs eligible individuals participating in a full time or part time educational activity at a publicly funded postsecondary educational institution and making satisfactory progress, as specified, receive a standard payment of \$175 to \$500 per semester or quarter, which may be provided, in whole or in part, in the form of a book voucher, or reimbursement for verified actual expenses for the purpose of paying costs associated with attending the postsecondary educational institution. The bill would exempt an applicant or recipient who is enrolled in a specified educational plan or program and making satisfactory progress from participating in specified work activities, would revise applicable assessment requirements, and would entitle an applicant to the payment or reimbursement and other necessary supportive services.

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: CalWORKs, Employment Services



Section II | Vetoed Bills

Vetoed Legislation

[AB 826](#) (**Santiago D**) **Emergency food assistance: COVID-19.**

Current Text: Vetoed: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law establishes and requires the State Department of Social Services to administer the CalFood Program to provide food and funding to food banks whose primary function is to facilitate the distribution of food to low-income households, as specified. This bill would establish a program to provide emergency food assistance. The program would require, upon the appropriation of funds by the Legislature for this purpose, or upon a determination by the Governor that specified funds available to the Governor may be used for this purpose, the department to contract with a Feeding America partner state organization with the capacity to provide a food assistance benefit statewide, or another nonprofit entity that the department deems appropriate, to issue food assistance benefits in the form of a one-time use, prepaid card preloaded with \$600 for use at retailers that sell groceries.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 826 without my signature. This bill would require the California Department of Social Services to contract with a Feeding America partner state organization or other appropriate nonprofit entity to provide a food assistance benefit to those who self-attest that they are eligible for state or federal nutrition assistance or immigration legal services. It has been my firm commitment that my Administration would support all Californians during the COVID-19 crisis. To that end, my Administration has advanced efforts to provide relief that is both inclusive of and directed to undocumented Californians. As we continue to address the needs of Californians during the pandemic, it is prudent to consider the most appropriate and responsible means to offer support to those in need. Given the significant General Fund impact annually that this bill would have, I am unable to sign this measure. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Recommend Support

Subject: Food, Immigration

Associations: CWDA Support (2)

[AB 2046](#) (**Voepel R**) **Family law: child support.**

Current Text: Vetoed: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law provides that if the person who is required to pay child support is disabled, meets certain federal eligibility requirements, and is receiving or would be eligible for certain state and federal disability payments, and the person has supplied the local child support agency with proof of eligibility or receipt of these benefits, then the order/notice to withhold income issued for the liquidation of the arrearage shall not exceed 5% of that person's total monthly disability payments, as specified. This bill would similarly prohibit the order/notice to withhold income for the liquidation of the arrearage from exceeding 5% of a person's total monthly disability compensation if the person who is required to pay child support is a disabled veteran receiving disability compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs who meets specified income requirements and has supplied the local child support agency with proof of receipt of disability compensation and other income and assets.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 2046 without my signature. This bill seeks to limit the amount of child support arrears that may be garnished via an income withholding order from a low-income disabled veteran to no more than five percent of their monthly Veterans Administration (VA) disability payments. While the intent of this bill is laudable, I am concerned that there is confusion about if and when VA disability benefits can be garnished and that adding a new state law will only increase that confusion. Federal law currently prohibits VA disability payments from several types of garnishment, including for child support enforcement, and we comply with federal law. Given this confusion, I am directing the Department of Child Support Services to make information about the existing federal law available on its website. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Child Support Svcs, Veterans

Associations: CCWRO Support

[SB 369](#) (**Hertzberg D**) **Prisoners: California Reentry Commission.**

Current Text: Vetoed: 9/30/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Current law requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish parole reentry and assessment programs for inmates in state prison, in order to assess the inmate prior to release and to

assist with the inmate's reentry into the community while on parole. Current law establishes the California Reentry and Enrichment Grant Program to provide grants to community-based programs that provide rehabilitative services to incarcerated individuals. This bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes, establish the California Reentry Commission within the department, to be cochaired by the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and a formerly incarcerated individual to be appointed to the commission by the Governor. The bill would specify the members of the commission and require the commission to meet once every 2 months.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 369 without my signature. This bill would establish the California Reentry Commission and task it with developing a new health and safety agenda for those returning home from custody, reviewing the barriers to reentry and coordinating with other entities to establish a grant program for reentry service providers. I share the author's commitment in supporting successful re-entry for persons returning to the community from prison. That is why I launched Returning Home Well, a public-private partnership that will provide critical supports including housing, healthcare, treatment, transportation, direct assistance, and employment support for Californians returning home from prison early due to COVID-19. I also agree that there is more to do to ensure that all persons returning home are given the support that they need. I do not, however, think that creating a new commission with over 20 members and appointees is necessary to achieve this goal. I am, instead, directing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health to engage with stakeholders, evaluate the barriers of reentry and determine what steps need to be taken to overcome those barriers. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Support

Subject: Re-entry

SB 912 (Beall D) California Fostering Connections to Success Act.

Current Text: Vetoed: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Executive Order No. N-53-20, signed by the Governor on April 17, 2020, and as extended by Executive Order No. N-69-20, signed by the Governor on June 15, 2020, authorizes temporary waivers of certain foster youth program requirements to ensure continuity of care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this bill, a nonminor dependent who turned 21 years of age between March 4, 2020, and June 30, 2021, inclusive, would be eligible to continue receiving extended foster care support through June 30, 2021.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 912 without my signature. During the current state of emergency related to the pandemic, the State of California has addressed the needs of many of our vulnerable populations through executive orders that immediately extended benefits and waived specified requirements to remove obstacles to provide ongoing aid. Foremost among these actions was including over \$40 million in the 2020 Budget Act to allow nonminor dependents (NMDs) who would have otherwise aged out of extended foster care access to supports and services until June 30, 2021. This bill, however, is seeking to extend court jurisdiction for all NMDs who aged out of extended foster care once the state of emergency was declared on March 4, 2020, until June 30, 2021. Further, this bill also would, for any statewide or county-by-county state of emergency declared by the Governor on or after January 1, 2021, require NMDs who turn 21 years of age while the state of emergency is in effect to continue to receive foster care support for six months from the date of the declaration. Because disasters and pandemics vary and are difficult to predict, this bill would obligate the State to a specific approach that may not always be the most prudent or effective. For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: Children and Family Services, Foster Care

Associations: CWDA Spot Watch

SB 1341 (Hurtado D) CalWORKs.

Current Text: Vetoed: 9/29/2020 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Under current law, when the federal government provides funds for the care of a needy relative with whom a needy child is living, aid to the child for any month includes aid to meet the need of that relative, if CalWORKs payments are made with respect to the child for that month, except as prescribed. Current law requires that the parent or parents be considered living with the needy child for a period of up to 180 consecutive days of the needy child's absence from the family assistance unit,

and provides that the parents are eligible for CalWORKs services, but not for the payment of aid, if certain conditions are met, including that the child has been removed from the parents and placed in out-of-home care, and that the county has determined that the provision of services is necessary for family reunification. This bill would instead provide that those eligible parents are eligible for the payment of aid, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature for this purpose.

Governor's Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 1341 without my signature. This bill would authorize California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) families whose children have been removed from the home and placed in out-of-home care to continue receiving monthly cash assistance while active reunification efforts are ongoing in the child welfare system. While I appreciate the author's intent to ensure that CalWORKs recipient families seeking to reunify with their children have needed resources, the bill could create significant costs, which would be more appropriately addressed through the annual budget process. Sincerely, Gavin Newsom

SSA Position: Watch

Subject: CalWORKs, Children and Family Services