

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of November 26, 2018

## State Issues

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| <p>Changes in the California Legislature</p>  | <p>When the Legislature comes back to be sworn in next Monday, December 3, there will be a host of new faces and Democratic super majorities in both houses. The Senate stands at 26 Democrats and 14 Republicans. There is one race still outstanding: Assemblymember Brian Maienschein has about a 850 vote lead, but the race has yet to be called. At this writing, the Assembly stands at 60 Democrats, 19 Republicans and one yet to be determined.</p> <p>Regarding the Assembly leadership, Anthony Rendon is expected to maintain his post as Speaker, strengthened by the large number of wins on the democratic side. Assemblymember Brian Dahle has stepped down from the Republican leadership post because he is set to run for Ted Gaines Senate seat now that Gaines has been elected to the Board of Equalization. Assemblymember Marie Waldron has been named the new Assembly Republican leader and is already grappling with an interesting issue of managing such a small caucus. There are not enough Assembly Republicans to fill every Committee's Vice Chair role and have lawmakers fill seats on each one of the major committees, without overburdening their members. Discussions in the Capitol include eliminating the Republican Vice Chair position on each committee altogether.</p> <p>Some of the new Democrats are suggesting that the Speaker appoint Democratic Co-chairs to each committee as a way to give the many Democratic members a leadership role. Many Legislators and many in the lobbying core believe that would be confusing, complicated, and a politically difficult prospect and are encouraging the Speaker to reject the notion of Co-Chairs. As the alternative to that, other options may be to create additional committees to provide greater oversight into several sectors of the state Administration and provide the added bonus of giving more Democrats Chair positions. With the backdrop of the troubles noted at the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Legislature may take this opportunity to increase its role of oversight and accountability for large sectors of the state Administration. This is still in the preliminary discussion phase in the Capitol, and we will report as this develops over the next few months.</p> <p>Legislators have the opportunity to introduce bills on Monday which will begin our review of all newly-introduced legislation for the 2019-20 session.</p> |
| <p>Status of the Assisted Suicide Lawsuit</p> | <p>On Tuesday, the Fourth District Court of Appeal (Riverside) overturned a lower court order, that put in jeopardy California's End of Life Option Act, because it found that plaintiffs to the lawsuit did not have sufficient standing to sue. Filed by a group of physicians, the court said that the plaintiffs did not show they were harmed by the law because the law allows health care providers to opt out California's assisted suicide act. Because of its procedural decision, the court did not rule on the lawsuit's challenges to the constitutionality of how the state's assisted suicide law was approved, in that it was passed during a special legislative session focused on health care funding. The appeals court sent the case back to the lower court, where it is likely to be amended and refiled by the plaintiffs.</p>  |

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