

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of January 31, 2022

State Issues

<p>Single Payer Bill Fails Deadline</p>	<p>AB 1400 (Kalra) establishing the single payer health system failed to meet its legislative deadline to continue through the process this year. Monday was the last day for all 2-year bills to pass the house of origin or fail for the year. Assembly Member Ash Kalra indicated late Monday that he simply didn't have the votes to get it passed – especially given the current vacancies in the Assembly – so he decided not to put the bill up for a vote. He also indicated “we will not give up.” While the same bill policy is not supposed to be introduced in the second year of the two-year session, if the powers that be want to make it happen, Assembly Member Kalra – or any other legislator – could introduce a new bill for the 2022 session; however, the bill would have to be at least “slightly” different. We will look for any secondary attempt on this policy proposal and others that failed to progress in 2022.</p> <p>The California Nurses Association, sponsors of AB 1400, issued a scathing press release (linked here) that “condemned” the Legislature, including, and specifically calling out their champion Assembly Member Kalra for not bringing the bill up for a vote.</p>
<p>Another Assembly Member Resigns</p>	<p>Assembly Member Autumn Burke (D-Inglewood) announced on Monday that she was resigning her position immediately. Burke is seen as a moderate Democrat taking centrist positions on many issues. She was a vocal member of the Assembly Health Committee and was chair of the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee. In both instances, she was at the tip of the spear on the single payer debate, with AB 1400 heard in Health Committee last week, and ACA 11 (the related funding bill) poised to be referred to Revenue and Taxation Committee sometime this year. She, however, did not cite any policy issues causing her to resign, but a desire to focus on her family. This now leaves a stunning five vacancies in the Assembly due to resignations (Chiu, Chau, Frazier, Gonzalez and now Burke) for a variety of reasons over the last few months. This will continue to be an issue that warrants attention as we start counting votes on issues on the Assembly Floor.</p>
<p>Budget Subcommittee Hearings Begin</p>	<p>On Thursday, the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services held its first hearing covering a host of health care departments. It focused on California Health and Human Services Agency; Emergency Medical Services Authority; Department of Health Care Access and Information (formerly OSHPD); Department of Managed Health Care; Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission; and California Health Benefit Exchange. You can access the agenda here. Also, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 will be meeting on Monday, February 7 at 2:30pm. The agenda can be found here. These are just preliminary hearings, and no votes will be taken at this time. One of the key items being discussed in the Assembly hearing on Monday will be the Office of Health Care Affordability. The Administration just published new language outlining their proposal for the Office, which can be found here.</p>

(more)

Legislative Timeline and Bills of Interest	The legislative deadline for bills to be introduced this session is Friday, February 18. Bills are beginning to trickle in, but we expect most bills to be introduced closer to the deadline. Of note, we have seen two bills related to emergency services, which we expect will be addressing issues related to wait times for ambulances. Those bills are AB 1721 and AB 1770, both authored by Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez, who chairs the Emergency Management Committee and is a licensed EMT.
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