

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of August 28, 2023

## State Issues

Appropriations  
Committee  
Suspense File

Today, both houses held their hearings where they voted on bills that are on the Suspense File – bills that have state costs associated with implementation. All the bills had hearings previously where testimony was provided. Today's hearing was a vote only. Bills often get voted on with amendments made to them that are not yet public. We will have to keep watch over the next few days for a few of the bills to better understand how the Committee amended a few of the bills. All bills that moved today will be voted on in their respective Floors over the next two weeks. The Legislative session ends on Thursday September 14.

Here are a few health bills of note:

**AB 40 (Rodriguez):** Ambulance Offload Times. *Passed, with amendments to delay implementation and other technical changes.*

**AB 85 (Weber):** Social Determinants of Health. *Passed with amendments.*

**AB 1092 (Wood):** Health Plan Consolidation. *Held.*

**AB 1331 (Wood):** Health Data Exchange Framework. *2-year bill.*

**SB 43 (Eggman):** Behavioral Health: Gravely Disabled. *Passed, with amendments to allow counties to opt in.*

**SB 45 (Roth):** Acute Psych Hospital Loan. *Held in Committee.*

**SB 326 (Eggman):** Behavioral Health Services Act. *Passed, with several substantive amendments.*

**SB 339 (Weiner):** Access to HIV Medications. *Passed.*

**SB 525 (Durazo):** Health Care Worker Minimum Wage. *Passed (Coalition members continue negotiating with Speaker).*

A few non-health bills of note:

**AB 1 (McKinnor):** Capitol Staff Collective Bargaining. *Passed.*

**SB 14 (Grove):** Sex Trafficking. *Passed.*

**SB 799 (Portantino):** Unemployment Benefits for Striking Workers. *Given special waivers to move without regard to certain legislative timelines.*

(more)

<p>Senate Leadership Changes</p>	<p>Senate Leadership is moving into a new era. Both the Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats have selected new leaders this week.</p> <p>After rumblings all weekend, it was announced that Senator Mike Maguire (D-North Coast) has been designated as the next President Pro Tempore of the Senate. He is currently the Majority Leader in the Senate and a close ally to outgoing Pro tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego). His district covers the entire north coast from San Francisco to the Oregon border.</p> <p>While the pro tem does not term out until the end of session next year, they decided to make the vote public this week to avoid a protracted battle like we all just saw in the Assembly for Speaker. McGuire's term would be brief — no more than 2 ½ years since he's termed out in 2026. He and Atkins are negotiating a transition that could begin as soon as January, though the exact timing wasn't specified. Atkins has been a stable and well-respected leader of the Senate since 2018. She is now running for Lieutenant Governor and rumors abound that she may even be interested in the Governorship.</p> <p>The Senate Republicans also selected a new leader of the Caucus in Senator Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrietta), replacing Senator Janet Nguyen. Senator Seyarto is a retired fire fighter, and his district is in the Inland Empire and includes portions of Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino and part of San Diego County. Seyarto served as mayor and councilmember of the city of Murrieta before being elected to the Assembly and then the state Senate. Senator Nguyen wanted to leave her leadership role because she is running for a seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Jones will retain his role as Minority Leader.</p>
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