



April 9, 2018

To: Members, California Fire Chiefs Association
Members, Fire Districts Association of California

From: Russell Noack, Public Policy Advocates

Re: FIRE Weekly Legislative Report – Week Ending 04/06/2018

[2018 Legislative Schedule](#)

Legislature Returns

The California Legislature returned from its Spring Recess on April 2, 2018.

Legislative Update

The following bills of interest had action the week of 04/02-06/2018:

[Assembly Bill 1795](#) (Gipson) was amended to authorize a local emergency medical service, as part of an EMS Plan, to transport patients who meet triage criteria to a behavioral health facility or sobering center. Our leadership participated in a Press Conference with the author and Supervisor Janice Hahn in support of the measure. The measure will be heard before the Assembly Health Committee on 4/17/2018. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.* ([Press Release](#); [Video](#))

[Assembly Bill 1877](#) (Limón) was amended to require the OES to translate any emergency communication into the most commonly used language other than English in an impacted area. *FIRE POSITION: Watch.*

[Assembly Bill 2333](#) (Wood) has been amended to establish a behavioral health director within the OES to ensure individuals have access to behavior health services and support in the aftermath of natural disasters. The bill will be heard before the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee on 4/18/2018. *FIRE POSITION: Watch.*

[Assembly Bill 2811](#) (Flora) was amended to create within the OES a pilot program for providing grants to local and state agencies to acquire and utilize SMART firefighting equipment. The bill is scheduled for hearing before the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee on 4/18/2018. *FIRE POSITION: Support.*

[Assembly Bill 2916](#) (Grayson) was amended to provide for the 2020-21 to 2024-25 fiscal years, the county auditor in which a qualified fire protection district, as defined by OES, would increase the total

amount of property tax revenue that is otherwise required to be allocated to each qualified fire protection district by an equity amount as defined, and to commensurately reduce the total amount of property tax revenue otherwise due to be allocated among all other local agencies in the county. *FIRE POSITION: Watch.*

[Assembly Bill 2966](#) (Aguilar-Curry) would increase the state share for disaster project allocations to local agencies from no more than 75% to up to 100%. The state share for the removal of dead and dying trees in connection with the Governor's Proclamation of a state of emergency would be no more than 90% of the total eligible costs. AB 2966 was approved by the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee on 4/4/2018. The bill now heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for consideration. *FIRE POSITION: Watch.*

[Senate Bill 929](#) (McGuire) would require every independent special district to maintain an Internet website that lists contact information for members of the public. The bill has a one-year delayed effective date (January 1, 2020), and has a hardship exemption under specific circumstances. This CSDA-sponsored bill was approved by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on 4/4/2018; the measure is scheduled for hearing on 4/16/2018 before the Senate Appropriations Committee. *FIRE POSITION: Under Review.*

[Senate Bill 944](#) (Hertzberg) was amended to authorize a local EMS agency to develop a community paramedicine program. The EMSA would have six months to approve or deny the program from the time it is submitted to the local EMS agency. This measure is scheduled for hearing before the Senate Health Committee on 4/18/2018. *FIRE POSITION: Watch.*

[Senate Bill 1079](#) (Monning) was amended to authorize the CAL FIRE Director to provide advance payments to special districts, Native American tribes and non-profit organizations for projects to improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This measure is scheduled for hearing on 4/24/2018, before the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. *FIRE POSITION: Support.*

[Senate Bill 1088](#) (Dodd) was amended to require OES to adopt standards for reducing risks of major disasters. The standards would include policies on defensible space, actions to be undertaken by electrical, gas, or water companies to reduce the risk of fire during a major disaster. This bill will be heard on 4/17/2018, before the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee. *FIRE POSITION: Watch.*

[Senate Bill 1415](#) (McGuire) was amended to add a new category of required inspection of lived in warehouse and factory spaces and would authorize local agencies to charge a fee to recover their costs. The proactive inspection code enforcement comes from the Ghost Ship Building Fire Task Force. *FIRE POSITION: Under Review.*

[Senate Bill 1416](#) (McGuire) was amended to allow the recovery of a nuisance abatement fine through special assessment or through a lien on the property. The bill is also the work product of the Ghost Ship Building Fire Task Force. *FIRE POSITION: Under Review.*