



Date: September 1, 2017

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 09/01/2017

[2017 Assembly & Senate Legislative Calendar](#)

On Wednesday, August 30, 2017, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee took up a request by Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado Hills) for an audit of the money collected from the SRA Fire Prevention Fee by CAL FIRE. After a spirited debate on how the money has been used from the inception of the program, the Committee rejected the audit request by a 7-to-6 vote, with 8 votes needed for passage.

On Thursday, August 31, 2017, the Brown Administration released its Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plan (text [here](#)), which includes \$25M in grants from OES to fire departments in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to support activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by wildfires. The plan also contains support of CAL FIRE from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), which is the plan that replaces the SRA fire prevention fee as the source of fire prevention projects.

Legislative Update

Committee Actions

Both the Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees took up their respective Suspense Files today. The Assembly Appropriations Committee considered 146 suspense measures, approving 107; the Senate Appropriations Committee considered 341 measures, approving 257.

The following bills of interest were considered this week:

[Assembly Bill 263 \(Rodriguez\)](#): Would require an employer that provides emergency medical services as part of an EMS plan to provide their employees with prescribed rest periods. The bill passed off the Senate Appropriations Suspense File and moves on to the Senate Floor for consideration. *FIRE POSITION: WATCH.*

Assembly Bill 579 (Flora): Would develop a statewide firefighters' pre-apprenticeship program. The bill passed off the Senate Floor and returns to the Assembly for concurrence in Senate amendments. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1116 (Grayson): Would create the Peer Support and Crisis Referral Services Act for emergency service providers. The bill passed off the Senate Appropriations Suspense File and moves on to the Senate Floor for consideration. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1120 (Cooper): Would prohibit the sale of large quantities of butane to single customers in an attempt to restrict the use of it in the home production of marijuana. The bill was amended to remove the criminal penalty and replaced it with a civil penalty. It passed off the Senate Appropriations Suspense File and moves on to the Senate Floor for consideration. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer): Would establish strict standards for contracting out by counties. The bill does not apply to cities or special districts. It has been re-referred to the Senate Rules Committee and is not expected to be taken up again this year. *FIRE POSITION: WATCH.*

Assembly Bill 1646 (Muratsuchi): Would provide for a risk management plan and notification system at petroleum refinery areas. Amendments requested by our members were accepted by the author; the bill passed off the Senate Appropriations Suspense File and moves on to the Senate Floor for consideration. *FIRE POSITION: NEUTRAL.*

Senate Bill 386 (Glazer): Would make it an infraction to smoke on a coastal beach. The bill passed off the Assembly Appropriations Suspense File and moves on to the Assembly Floor for consideration. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Senate Bill 523 (Hernandez): Would establish a quality assurance fee for each emergency medical transport provided by private or public providers. The bill passed off the Assembly Appropriations Suspense File and moves to the Assembly Floor for consideration. *FIRE POSITION: UNDER REVIEW.*

Please note that with all the late committee actions today, the comprehensive Legislative Status Report is not available today. We will provide the report with updated actions and status information on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.