

**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY AND
WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1540

Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: (510) 622-3959

Email: CHSWC@dir.ca.govWebsite: www.dir.ca.gov/chswc

DATE: February 5, 2026

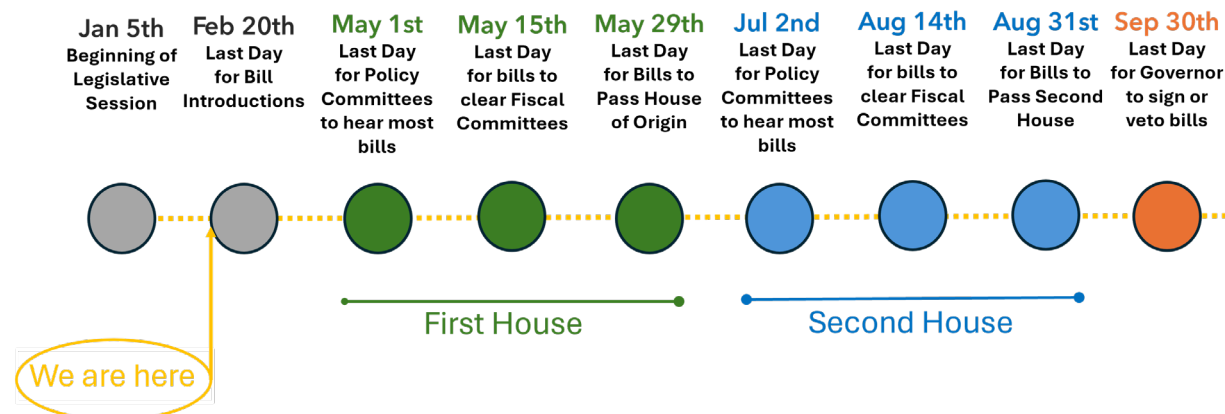
TO: CHSWC Commissioners

Nicholas Roxborough, Chair
Jen Hamelin
Shelley Kessler
Kristi Montoya
Chris Pedroza
Mitch Steiger
Meagan Subers
Sidharth Voorakkara

FROM: Melissa Flores, Executive Officer, CHSWC

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

The abbreviated legislative calendar below provides a reference to this point in time in the 2026 legislative cycle. Legislative bills are now in the first house from where they originated.



It is still early in this legislative session but currently there are no pending bills with Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) directly named.

CHSWC staff, in consultation with DIR's Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs (OLRA), have identified pending bills that may be of interest to CHSWC. These bills are related to occupational health and safety and workers' compensation. The attached list provides individual bill details including summary and status.

WC and H&S Bills February 5, 2026

[AB 1048](#) (Chen R) Workers' compensation.

Current Text: Amended: 1/22/2026 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Last Amend: 1/22/2026

Status: 1/22/2026-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on RLS.

Is Urgency: N

Is Fiscal: Y

Location: 9/8/2025-S. RLS.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law establishes a workers' compensation system, administered by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, to compensate an employee for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law requires an employer to provide medical, surgical, chiropractic, acupuncture, and hospital treatment that is reasonably required to cure or relieve the injured worker from the effects of the injury. Upon payment, adjustment, or denial of a complete or incomplete itemization of medical services, existing law requires an employer to provide an explanation of review that includes, among other information, the amount paid and the basis for any adjustment, change, or denial of the item or procedure billed. This bill would, when the basis for any adjustment, change, or denial of an item or procedure is a contract, require the explanation of review to include information on that underlying contract, including whom the rendering medical provider may contact to seek a copy of the underlying contract. The bill would state that disclosure of a medical provider network does not satisfy this requirement and would state that if the contract is not sent to the rendering provider or their agent within 30 business days of the provider's request, the bill shall be reprocessed and paid, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 1576](#) (Ortega D) Workers' compensation: Subsequent injuries payments.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/12/2026 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/12/2026

Status: 2/2/2026-Referred to Com. on INS.

Is Urgency: N

Is Fiscal: Y

Location: 2/2/2026-A. INS.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law establishes a workers' compensation system, administered by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, to compensate an employee for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law provides certain methods for determining workers' compensation benefits payable to a worker or the worker's dependents for purposes of permanent total disability or permanent partial disability that include a determination of the percentage of permanent disability incurred. Existing law requires that, for injuries incurred before January 1, 2013, in determining the percentages of permanent disability, account be taken of the nature of the physical injury or disfigurement, the occupation of the injured employee, and the injured employee's age at the time of the injury, and requires that specified factors be considered in determining an employee's diminished earning capacity for these purposes. For purposes of these provisions, "nature of the physical injury or disfigurement" incorporates the descriptions and measurements of physical impairment and the corresponding percentages of impairments published in the American Medical Association (AMA) Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (5th Edition). For injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2013, in determining the percentages of permanent disability, existing law requires the same factors be taken into account but removes from consideration the employee's diminished future earning capacity and, instead, incorporates an adjustment factor of 1.4, as specified. Existing law also establishes the Subsequent Injuries Benefits Trust Fund, a continuously appropriated fund. Under existing law, if a permanently, partially disabled employee receives a subsequent compensable injury resulting in additional permanent disability, then that employee receives compensation from the Subsequent Injuries Benefits Trust Fund. Existing law requires, when applicable, the additional permanent disability resulting from the subsequent injury to be equal to 35% or more of total, when considered alone and without regard to, or adjustment for, the occupation or the age of the employee. For purposes of determining permanent disability resulting from a subsequent injury, this bill would measure permanent disability, for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2005, and prior to January 1, 2013, by the whole person impairment rating as determined in accordance with the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (5th Edition), after adjustment for diminished future earning capacity and without regard to, or adjustment for, the

occupation or age of the employee. For injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2013, the bill would measure permanent disability in the same manner as an injury occurring on or after January 1, 2005, and prior to January 1, 2013, except that an adjustment for diminished future earning capacity is replaced by the 1.4 adjustment factor. The bill would state that these provisions are declarative of existing law. To the extent the bill changes the eligibility requirements for and calculation for payments made from the Subsequent Injuries Benefits Trust Fund, the bill would make an appropriation. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 442 (Smallwood-Cuevas D) Grocery retail store and retail drug establishment employees: self-service checkout.

Current Text: Amended: 4/21/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/18/2025

Last Amend: 4/21/2025

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 7/9/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

Is Fiscal: Y

Location: 8/28/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	2 year	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law imposes certain requirements on grocery employers, as defined, upon the purchase or change in control of a grocery establishment, including requiring a successor grocery employer to retain eligible grocery workers for a specified period after transfer of the grocery establishment. This bill would prohibit a grocery retail store or a retail drug establishment, as those terms are defined, from providing a self-service checkout option for customers unless specified conditions are satisfied, including having at least one manual checkout station staffed by an employee who is available to any given customer at the time that a self-service checkout option is made available to that customer. This bill would require a grocery retail store or retail drug establishment that offers self-service checkout to include self-service checkout in the employer's illness and prevention program, as required by regulations of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health. The bill also would require a grocery retail store or retail drug establishment that intends to implement self-checkout to notify workers and their collective bargaining representatives at least 60 days in advance of the implementation, as specified. The bill would not preempt any city, county, or city and county ordinance that provides equal or greater protection to workers. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 555 (Caballero D) Workers' compensation: average annual earnings.

Current Text: Amended: 1/22/2026 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Last Amend: 1/22/2026

Status: 1/27/2026-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 30. Noes 10.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Is Urgency: N

Is Fiscal: Y

Location: 1/27/2026-A. DESK

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law establishes a workers' compensation system, administered by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, to compensate an employee for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law provides for temporary disability, permanent total disability, or permanent partial disability benefits, among other benefits, for an injured employee and requires the computation of an injured employee's average annual earnings and average weekly earnings for purposes of determining those disability benefits. Existing law requires, for computing average annual earnings for purposes of permanent partial disability indemnity, that average weekly earnings be taken at various amounts, including between \$240 and \$435 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2014, except as specified. This bill would require, for computing average annual earnings for purposes of permanent partial disability indemnity, that average weekly earnings be taken at between \$_____ and \$_____ for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2027.

SB 632 (Arreguín D) Workers' compensation: hospital employees.

Current Text: Amended: 4/10/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Last Amend: 4/10/2025

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was INS. on 6/16/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

Is Fiscal: Y

Location: 7/17/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law establishes a workers' compensation system, administered by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, to compensate an employee for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law creates a rebuttable presumption that specified injuries sustained in the course of employment of a specified member of law enforcement or a specified first responder arose out of and in the course of employment. Prior existing law, until January 1, 2024, created a rebuttable presumption of injury for various employees, including an employee who works at a health facility, as defined, that included an illness or death resulting from COVID-19, if specified circumstances applied. This bill would define "injury," for a hospital employee who provides direct patient care in an acute care hospital, to include infectious diseases, cancer, musculoskeletal injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and respiratory diseases. The bill would include the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) from SARS-CoV-2 and its variants, among other conditions, in the definitions of infectious and respiratory diseases. The bill would create rebuttable presumptions that these injuries that develop or manifest in a hospital employee who provides direct patient care in an acute care hospital arose out of and in the course of the employment. The bill would extend these presumptions for specified time periods after the hospital employee's termination of employment.

SB 828

(Cabaldon D) Fireworks licenses and permits: disqualifying conditions: storage facilities: local jurisdictions.

Current Text: Amended: 1/5/2026 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Last Amend: 1/5/2026

Status: 1/26/2026-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 39. Noes 0.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Is Urgency: N

Is Fiscal: Y

Location: 1/26/2026-A. DESK

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The State Fireworks Law requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt regulations relating to fireworks as may be necessary for the protection of life and property. Existing law requires these regulations to include, among other things, provisions for the granting of licenses and permits for the manufacture, wholesale, import, export, and sale of all classes of fireworks. Existing law authorizes the State Fire Marshal to deny or revoke a fireworks license for specified reasons. A violation of the State Fireworks Law or the regulations issued pursuant thereto is a misdemeanor. Existing law requires fireworks licensees seeking authorization for specified activities related to fireworks to submit a written application for a permit to the chief of the fire department or the chief fire prevention officer of the city or county, or to another issuing authority that may be designated by the governing body of the city or county, or, in the event there is no officer or person appointed within the area, to the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's deputy, as provided. This bill would require applicants for a wholesaler's license, a manufacturer's license, an importer's license, or an exporter's license to disclose the complete street addresses of any intended storage facilities on their initial application. The bill would also require holders of those licenses to notify the Office of the State Fire Marshal and specified local entities of the complete street addresses of intended storage facilities for any fireworks or materials to build fireworks. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would subject licensees who violate that notification requirement to a fine of no less than \$10,000, and would authorize the State Fire Marshal to revoke their license. The bill would require the Office of the State Fire Marshal, upon approval of an application for a wholesaler's license, a manufacturer's license, an importer's license, or an exporter's license, to notify specified local entities of any storage site reported on the application. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Total Measures: 6

Total Tracking Forms: 6