

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.gov

Website: www.dir.ca.gov/chswc



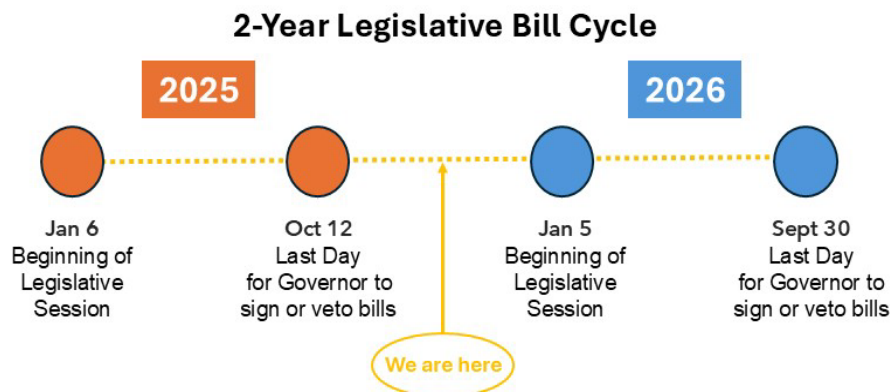
DATE: December 3, 2025

TO: CHSWC Commissioners

Mitch Steiger, 2025 Chair
Jen Hamelin
Shelley Kessler
Kristi Montoya
Chris Pedroza
Nicholas Roxborough
Meagan Subers
Sidharth Voorakkara

FROM: Melissa Flores, Executive Officer, CHSWC

SUBJECT: Legislative Update



The 2025 legislative session has come to a close. However, we are at the midpoint of a 2-year legislative cycle, that commenced on January 6, 2025 and runs through the end of August 2026. The significance of this is that bills that were placed in suspense (held over) in 2025 can be taken up when the legislative session reconvenes on January 5, 2026.

At the close of the 2025 session, there were no bills enacted with the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) directly named or instructed to investigate an issue.

Nevertheless, the legislature passed a number of bills that were enacted into law that related to workers' compensation and health and safety issues including administrative actions and changes in how the regulated systems function to protect workers, as well as payers.

To assist you in reviewing the 2025 results of the health and safety (HS) and workers' compensation (WC) bills, we have provided three lists:

1. **Quick view** (below): *Offers a brief summary and direct link to view the legislation*
2. **2025 WC and H&S Chaptered Bills**: *Bills that were enacted into law*
3. **2025 WC and H&S 2-Year Bills**: *Bills introduced in 2025 and carrying over in 2026*

Quick View:

Chaptered Bills

[**AB 365**](#) – Requires public utilities and independent contractors to have an AED defibrillator at every worksite where 2 or more electrical workers are working on transmission or distribution lines, and related safety procedures requirements.

[**AB 841**](#) – Creates working group of State Fire Marshall and DOSH for PPE recommendations related to lithium-ion battery fires.

[**AB 845**](#) – Requires Cal/OSHA, Agricultural Labor Relations Board and DLSE enforcement to collaborate on complaints and investigation/enforcement actions related for agricultural workers/employees.

[**AB 1125**](#) - Adds peace officers at State Department of State Hospitals as among those employees/occupations with a rebuttable presumption for “heart trouble” as occupation- related.

[**AB 1181**](#) – Requires the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to consider National Fire Protection Association standards when modifying firefighter PPE.

[**AB 1293**](#) – Requires the administrative director to develop and make available a medical evaluation request form for communicating with QME evaluators in advance of an evaluation and QME report.

[**AB 1398**](#) – Requires disclosure of financial interest in workers' compensation medical care provider entities to third party payers.

[**AB 1514**](#) – Changes the method for determining independent contractor for specific occupations, manicurist and commercial fishers.

[**SB 8**](#) - Expands entitlement of a leave of absence in lieu of temporary disability

payments to specified peace officers employed by a county of the eighth class, as defined.

- SB 20** – Restricts dry methods in slab stone countertop installations; requires wet methods. Requires specific training in apprenticeship programs for slab stone fabrication activities.
- SB 230** – Expands cancer and PTSD rebuttable presumption for fire fighters from the Department of Defense installations and NASA installations to firefighters at commercial airports.
- SB 294** – Establishes the Workplace Know Your Rights Act which requires an annual notice to all employees of specific workers' rights, including (federal and state) Constitutional rights when interacting with law enforcement.
- SB 447** – Increases the age from 21 to 26 for survivor health benefits to minor dependents of workers' compensation covered firefighter and peace officer employees, as defined.
- SB 470** – Repeals the teleconferencing provisions of Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act on January 1, 2030.
- SB 487** – Provides firefighters and peace officers no less than 2/3 of the third-party defendant's liability insurance policy limit.
- SB 578** – Establishes a California Workplace Outreach Program to promote workplace protections, utilizing qualified organizations for education and outreach services.
- SB 627** – Adds law enforcement officers to the definition of a persons prohibited from wearing a facial covering while performing their duties; makes wearing a mask a crime for law enforcement.
- SB 809** – Stipulates that mere ownership of a vehicle used by a person providing labor or services does not make that person an independent contractor.
- SB 847** – Enables the DWC Administrative Director to expand the conditions for filing a lien against the property of an uninsured employer liable for workers' compensation claims.

2-Year Bills

- AB 694** – Requires DOSH understaffing study by LOSH and LOHP, with an advisory committee for the study.
- AB 1048** – DOSH notices for employees to add email address of nearest DOSH office.
- AB 1110** – DOSH notices for employees to add email address of nearest DOSH office.
- AB 1163** – Requires workplace violence prevention plan for school employees to include de-escalation techniques training.
- AB 1209** – Cannabis industry and workers' compensation insurance compliance assistance (due to state/federal laws).

- AB 1424** – Requires Cal/OSHA to submit rulemaking proposal to OSHSB related to workers under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- AB 1498** – Establishes a state-wide medical provider network database, in which physicians are willing and able to treat injured workers in the San Joaquin Valley region.
- AB 1515** – Requires PEOs to register with DLSE and for DLSE to set a registration fee.
- SB 234** – Requires formation of a workgroup by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control on how to avoid exposure to toxic heavy metals after a wildfire, with a report due to the legislature.
- SB 442** – Required conditions for grocery store self-service check-out staffing, including coverage of self-service check-out in the employer's illness and injury prevention program.
- SB 632** – Defines "injury" for hospital workers, including the Covid-19 disease, for which a rebuttable presumption is asserted, and extends the applicable time period after a hospital employee's termination of employment.
- SB 668** – Authorizes the DWC Administrative Director to adjust the med-legal fee schedule every two years, based on specified costs; requires updates also when drugs and pharmacy services maximum fees are updated by the Administrative Director.

2025 WC and H&S Chaptered Bills

[AB 365](#)

(Schiavo D) The Justin Kropp Safety Act: electrical utilities: AED availability at worksites.

Status: 10/6/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 361, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations, while local publicly owned electric utilities are under the direction of their governing board. Existing law authorizes the commission to establish rules for all public utilities, subject to control by the Legislature. The Public Utilities Act authorizes the commission, after a hearing, to require every public utility to construct, maintain, and operate its line, plant, system, equipment, apparatus, tracks, and premises in a manner so as to promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, passengers, customers, and the public, and authorizes the commission to prescribe the installation, use, maintenance, and operation of appropriate safety or other devices or appliances. Existing law requires a person or entity that acquires an automated external defibrillator (AED) to comply with all regulations governing the placement of an AED, notify an agent of the local emergency medical service agency of the existence, location, and type of AED acquired, ensure the AED is maintained and tested according to the operation and maintenance guidelines set forth by the manufacturer, ensure that the AED is tested at least biannually and after each use, ensure that a specified inspection is made of all AEDs on the premises at least every 90 days, and ensure that records of this maintenance and testing are maintained. This bill, the Justin Kropp Safety Act, would require each utility, as defined, and an independent contractor or subcontractor of the utility, to have an AED available at every worksite where 2 or more electrical utility workers are performing work on transmission or distribution lines of 601 volts or more (AED requirement). The bill would require the utility, and the independent contractor or subcontractor of the utility, to adopt specified written policies and procedures (policy requirement), and to comply with the placement, notification, maintenance, testing, and recordkeeping requirements described above. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 841](#)

(Pate D) State Fire Marshal: personal protective equipment: battery fires.

Status: 10/6/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 382, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law authorizes the State Fire Marshal to make changes as may be necessary to standardize all existing fire protective equipment throughout the state. This bill would require, until January 1, 2031, the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, to develop a working group with specified membership to make recommendations regarding personal protective equipment used in responding to lithium-ion battery fires. The bill would require, at a minimum, the working group to review, and for the purpose of making the recommendations to consider, the latest personal protective equipment to limit exposure to lithium and other heavy metals, technology to clean personal protective equipment, whether different types of personal protective equipment should be used for different types of lithium-ion battery fires, and current decontamination practices at the fire scene, as specified. The bill would require the recommendations to be submitted to the Legislature on or before September 1, 2026.

[AB 845](#)

(Arambula D) Employment: complaints: agricultural employees.

Status: 10/11/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 624, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, consisting of various departments and entities, including the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and the Department of Industrial Relations. Existing law requires the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to, among other things, maintain a telephone line, as specified, for the purpose of providing interested persons with information concerning their rights and responsibilities, as prescribed, or for referring persons to the appropriate agency or entity with the capacity to render advice or help in dealing with any situation arising out of agricultural labor disputes. Existing law requires the Department of Industrial Relations to, among other things, perform specified functions, including fostering, promoting, and developing the welfare of the wage earners of California, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment. Existing law establishes the Division of Labor Standards

Enforcement, under the direction of the Labor Commissioner, within the Department of Industrial Relations and sets forth its powers and duties regarding the enforcement of labor laws. Existing law also establishes the Division of Occupational Safety and Health within the Department of Industrial Relations and requires the division to enforce all occupational safety and health standards, as specified. This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, or Division of Occupational Safety and Health, upon intake of a complaint from an agricultural employee by any department, division, or board within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to collaborate with each other and take all reasonable efforts to transmit the complaint to the appropriate entity for processing and investigation. The bill would prohibit the transmitting entity from disclosing the identity and personal information of the agricultural employee complainant to the extent prohibited by law without their consent. The bill would define various terms for these purposes.

AB 1125

(Nguyen D) Workers' compensation: peace officers.

Status: 10/3/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 291, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law designates various persons as peace officers, including officers of a state hospital under the jurisdiction of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services. 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 their employment. Existing law creates a disputable presumption, applicable to officers and employees in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, that heart trouble that develops or manifests during a period when the employee is in the service of the department arose out of and in the course of employment. This bill would add to the above-described presumption a peace officer, as defined, employed by the State Department of State Hospitals and would make other conforming and technical changes.

AB 1181

(Haney D) Firefighters: personal protective equipment.

Status: 10/6/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 392, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: The California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973 provides the Division of Occupational Safety and Health within the Department of Industrial Relations with the power, jurisdiction, and supervision over all employment and places of employment necessary to enforce and administer all occupational health and safety laws and to protect employees. The act grants to the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, an independent entity within the department, exclusive authority to adopt occupational safety and health standards within the state. Beginning July 1, 2018, and every 5 years thereafter, the act requires the board, in consultation with the department, to complete a comprehensive review of all revisions to National Fire Protection Association standards pertaining to certain personal protective equipment (PPE) and requires the board to consider modifying existing safety orders and to render a decision regarding the adoption of necessary changes to safety orders, or other applicable standards and regulations, no later than July 1 of the subsequent year, if the review finds that the revisions to applicable National Fire Protection Association standards provide a greater degree of personal protection than the safety orders. This bill would, in addition to the above-described requirement, require the board to consider modifying its existing safety order regarding firefighter personal protective equipment by January 1, 2028, to address National Fire Protection Association performance standards for PPE that are not relevant or applicable to how firefighters utilize their PPE and that result in the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, fluoropolymers, flame retardants, and other hazardous substances in firefighting personal protective garments and auxiliary firefighting PPE, as provided. The bill would also require, by July 1, 2026, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health to report on progress toward implementation of the modified PPE safety standards, as provided. The bill would also make related findings and declarations. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 1293

(Wallis R) Workers' compensation: qualified medical evaluators.

Status: 10/3/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 298, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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 arising out of and in the course of their employment. Existing law establishes procedures for

the resolution of disputes regarding the compensability of an injury, including the use of a qualified medical evaluator (QME) to perform a comprehensive medical-legal evaluation to address all contested medical issues arising from all injuries reported in a claim. Existing law requires all communications with a panel QME before a medical evaluation to be in writing served on the opposing party 20 days in advance of the evaluation, and any subsequent communication with the QME to be in writing and served on the opposing party when the communication is sent to the QME.

AB 1398 **(Valencia D) Workers' compensation.**

Status: 10/11/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 640, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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, as defined, for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law provides that it is unlawful for a physician to refer a person for specified medical goods or services whether for treatment or medical-legal purposes if the physician or their immediate family has a financial interest with the person or in the entity that receives the referral, except in prescribed circumstances. Existing law requires all interested parties, as defined, to disclose any financial interest in any entity providing services. A violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor. This bill would require all interested parties to provide written disclosure of their financial interest, if any, to a third-party payer or other entity to whom a claim for payment is presented for services furnished pursuant to a referral. By changing the definition of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 1514 **(Committee on Labor and Employment) Worker classification: employees and independent contractors: licensed manicurists: commercial fishers.**

Status: 10/3/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 305, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law requires a 3-part test, commonly known as the "ABC" test, to determine if workers are employees or independent contractors for purposes of the Labor Code, the Unemployment Insurance Code, and the wage orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission. Under the ABC test, a person providing labor or services for remuneration is considered an employee rather than an independent contractor unless the hiring entity demonstrates that the person is free from the control and direction of the hiring entity in connection with the performance of the work, the person performs work that is outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business, and the person is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business. Existing law charges the Labor Commissioner with the enforcement of labor laws, including worker classification. Existing law exempts specified occupations and business relationships from the application of the ABC test described above. Existing law, instead, provides that these exempt relationships are governed by the multifactor test previously adopted in the case of *S. G. Borello & Sons, Inc. v. Department of Industrial Relations* (1989) 48 Cal.3d 341. Existing law includes an exemption for services provided by a licensed manicurist, subject to the manicurist meeting specified conditions, and makes this exemption for licensed manicurists inoperative on January 1, 2025. This bill would delete the January 1, 2025, inoperative date, and, instead, until January 1, 2029, reapply the above-specified exemption to certain licensed manicurists. The bill would also require the Employment Development Department and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to, by June 1, 2026, report to the Legislature the annual number of allegations of misclassification or other specified violations involving licensed manicurists since January 1, 2020, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 8**(Ashby D) Peace officers: injury or illness: leaves of absence.**

Status: 10/13/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 733, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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, which generally requires employers to secure the payment of workers' compensation for injuries incurred by their employees that arise out of and in the course of their employment. Existing law entitles, among others, local law enforcement and probation officers and firefighters employed on a regular full-time basis to a leave of absence without loss of salary while disabled by injury or illness arising out of and in the course of their duties. Existing law provides that a leave of absence under those provisions is in lieu of temporary disability payments or maintenance allowance payments otherwise payable under the workers' compensation system. This bill would expand these provisions to entitle specified peace officers who are employed on a regular, full-time basis by a county of the eighth class, as defined, to this leave of absence. This bill contains other existing laws.

SB 20**(Menjivar D) Occupational safety: high-exposure trigger tasks on artificial stone.**

Status: 10/13/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 734, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes the Department of Industrial Relations in the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and requires the department to be conducted under the control of an executive officer known as the Director of Industrial Relations. Existing law states that the function of the department, among other things, is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of California, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment and vests the department with responsibility for administering the state plan for the development and enforcement of occupational safety and health standards relating to issues covered by corresponding standards adopted pursuant to federal law. Existing law, the California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973 (OSHA), requires employers to comply with certain safety and health standards, as specified, and charges the Division of Occupational Safety and Health with enforcement of the act. OSHA defines "serious injury or illness" for purposes of the act to mean any injury or illness occurring in a place of employment or in connection with any employment that results in one of a list of conditions, including inpatient hospitalization, as provided, the loss of a member of the body, any serious degree of permanent disfigurement, and impairment sufficient to cause a part of the body or the function of an organ to become permanently and significantly reduced in efficiency on or off the job, as specified. Under OSHA, certain knowing, negligent, or willful violations of safety and health standards are punishable as a misdemeanor. The bill would impose restrictions on specified high-exposure trigger tasks on artificial stone, as those terms are defined. Specifically, a person or entity engaged in high-exposure trigger tasks would be prohibited from using dry methods, and would be required to use effective wet methods when engaging in any high-exposure trigger tasks. The bill would make a violation of these provisions grounds for, among other disciplinary action, an immediate order by the division prohibiting continued work. The bill would require the division to enforce these provisions by issuing a citation alleging a violation and a notice of civil penalty. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 230**(Laird D) Workers' compensation: firefighters.**

Status: 10/6/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 404, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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, as defined, for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law creates a rebuttable presumption that specified injuries, such as cancer or post-traumatic stress disorder, developed or manifested 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. Existing law makes these provisions applicable to certain active firefighting members, including active firefighting members of a fire department that serves a United States Department of Defense installation or active firefighting members of a fire department that serves a National Aeronautics and Space Administration installation. This bill would, for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2026, additionally apply these provisions to active firefighting members of a fire department that provides fire protection to a commercial airport, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[SB 294](#)**(Reyes D) The Workplace Know Your Rights Act.**

Status: 10/12/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 667, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, headed by the Labor Commissioner, within the Department of Industrial Relations, for the purpose of enforcing labor laws. Existing law prescribes the duties and rights of employers and employees relating to specified labor laws, including, among other things, workers' compensation and notice requirements related to inspections conducted by an immigration agency. This bill would establish the Workplace Know Your Rights Act. The bill would require an employer, on or before February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, to provide a stand-alone written notice to each current employee of specified workers' rights, including, among other things, the categories described above, as well as constitutional rights of an employee when interacting with law enforcement at the workplace, as specified. The bill would also require the employer to provide the written notice to each new employee upon hire and to provide the written notice annually to an employee's authorized representative, if any. This bill would require the Labor Commissioner to develop a template notice that an employer may use to comply with the notice requirement described above. The bill would require the Labor Commissioner to post the template notice on its internet website on or before January 1, 2026, and to post an updated template notice annually thereafter. The bill would also require the Labor Commissioner, on or before July 1, 2026, to develop a video for employees advising them of their rights under the areas described above and to develop a video for employers advising them of their rights and requirements under those areas, as provided. The bill would require the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, the Public Employment Relations Board, and the Attorney General's office to provide specified input for the template notice and the videos. This bill contains other related provisions.

[SB 447](#)**(Umburg D) Workers' compensation: death benefits.**

Status: 10/11/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 653, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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. Under existing law, when a local employee who is a firefighter or peace officer, as specified, and that employee is killed or dies as a result of an accident or injury caused by external violence of physical force incurred in the performance of their duty, the employer is required to continue providing health benefits to the deceased employee's minor dependents under the benefits extended to the surviving spouse, or if there is no surviving spouse, until the minor dependent is 21 years of age. This bill would increase that age to 26 years of age.

[SB 470](#)**(Laird D) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.**

Status: 10/1/2025-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 222, Statutes of 2025

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The act authorizes meetings through teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that the state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, and that at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting. This bill would instead repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030.

[SB 487](#)**(Grayson D) Workers' compensation.**

Status: 10/13/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 763, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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 all medical services reasonably required to cure or relieve the injured worker from the effects of the injury.

Existing law establishes a Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and sets forth various proceedings that are required to be brought forth before the board. Existing law authorizes an employer who pays or becomes obligated to pay compensation, salary in lieu of compensation, or an amount to the Department of Industrial Relations to make a claim or bring an action against a third person who caused the injury or death of an employee that gave rise to the employer's obligations. Existing law relieves the employer from an obligation to pay further compensation to or on behalf of the employee if the employer has paid litigation expenses, attorney's fees, and the employer's lien. Existing law requires any release or settlement of a claim to include notice to both the employer and employee, as specified, and the written consent of both the employer and employee, in order for the release or settlement to be valid. Existing law authorizes the appeals board to credit the employer with an amount equal to the recovery by the employee that has not been applied to certain expenses, to be applied against the employer's liability for compensation, as specified. Existing law authorizes an employer to enforce payment of a lien against a third party, or against the employee, if damages have been paid to the employee, in the manner provided for enforcement of money judgments. This bill would state that when the injured employee is a peace officer, as defined, or a firefighter, the employer will be entitled to receive no more than 1/3 of the third-party defendant's liability insurance policy limit, if the employee establishes that their total damages exceed the net recovery after satisfaction of the employer's claim and that the total liability insurance limits available are insufficient to fully compensate the employer and employee's proven damages. The bill would limit an employer's right to reimbursement, subrogation, or lien to the maximum recovery threshold, as specified. The bill would prohibit an employer from asserting any recovery by one of these injured employees as a credit or offset against future workers' compensation benefits and would require a settlement or release to limit an employer's claim for reimbursement to the portion of the settlement not allocated to the employee pursuant to these provisions. The bill would limit these provisions to those peace officers and firefighters who are employed by certain local entities, such as a city or county, among others. This bill contains other existing laws.

SB 578 (Smallwood-Cuevas D) California Workplace Outreach Program.

Status: 10/13/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 771, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes the Department of Industrial Relations within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to, among other things, foster, promote, and develop the welfare of wage earners, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment. This bill would, until January 1, 2031, require the department, upon appropriation of funds for this purpose, to establish and maintain the California Workplace Outreach Program to promote awareness of, and compliance with, workplace protections that affect workers. The bill would require the department to issue a competitive request for application for qualified organizations, as defined, to provide education and outreach services to workers and to assist workers to assert their workplace rights. This bill would require the department to guide discussions with qualified organizations regarding priority topics for outreach and education and to consult with those organizations and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and, as relevant, its departments and boards to create education and outreach materials informing workers of their rights on priority topics and training materials for workers and organizations. The bill would require the materials to be translated into non-English languages, to be determined by the department in consultation with each qualified organization, as appropriate for the geographic region the qualified organization serves. The bill would require the department and qualified organizations to meet at least twice a year to coordinate outreach and education efforts and for qualified organizations to share information relevant to enforcement activities of the department.

SB 627 (Wiener D) Law enforcement: masks.

Status: 9/20/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 125, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to wear a mask, false whiskers, or any personal disguise, as specified, with the purpose of evading or escaping discovery, recognition, or identification while committing a public offense, or for concealment, flight, evasion, or escape from arrest or conviction for any public offense. This bill would make it a crime for a law enforcement officer to wear a facial covering in the performance of their duties, except as specified. The bill would define law enforcement officer as anyone designated by California law as a peace officer who is employed by a city, county, or other local agency, and any officer or agent of a federal law enforcement agency or law enforcement agency of another state, or any person acting on behalf of a federal law enforcement agency or agency of another state. The bill would make a violation of these provisions punishable as an infraction or a misdemeanor, as specified. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-

mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 809

(Durazo D) Employees and independent contractors: construction trucking.

Status: 10/11/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 659, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law, as established in the case of *Dynamex Operations W. v. Superior Court* (2018) 4 Cal.5th 903 (*Dynamex*), creates a presumption that a worker who performs services for a hirer is an employee for purposes of claims for wages and benefits arising under wage orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission. Existing law requires a 3-part test, commonly known as the “ABC” test, to determine if workers are employees or independent contractors for those purposes. Existing law establishes that, for purposes of the Labor Code, the Unemployment Insurance Code, and the wage orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, a person providing labor or services for remuneration is considered an employee rather than an independent contractor unless the hiring entity demonstrates that the person is free from the control and direction of the hiring entity in connection with the performance of the work, the person performs work that is outside the usual course of the hiring entity’s business, and the person is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business. This test is commonly known as the “ABC” test, as described above. Existing law charges the Labor Commissioner with the enforcement of labor laws, including worker classification. Existing law exempts specified occupations and business relationships from the application of *Dynamex* and the provisions described above. This bill would provide that mere ownership of a vehicle, including a personal vehicle or a commercial vehicle, used by a person in providing labor or services for remuneration does not make that person an independent contractor. The bill would state that this provision is declarative of existing law. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 847

(Reyes D) Workers’ compensation: uninsured employer: transfer of real property.

Status: 10/13/2025-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 790, Statutes of 2025.

Is Urgency: N

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. Under existing law, an employer is required to provide for the payment of workers’ compensation and if the employer has not secured the payment of compensation or is illegally uninsured, a lien may be filed against the employer’s property or the property of any person found to be parents or substantial shareholders of the employer. This bill would authorize the director to determine whether a conveyance of real property by an uninsured employer or a substantial shareholder after a date of injury in a claim and prior to the recording of a certificate of lien was intended to retain a beneficial interest in that real property for the uninsured employer or substantial shareholder, resulting in a trust for the benefit of the uninsured employer. The bill would authorize the director to make a prima facie finding that the transaction resulted in a beneficial trust for the uninsured employer when specified circumstances are present, such as the deed indicates that the transfer was made as a gift or that no transfer tax to the county was paid, among others. The bill would require that when the director determines that such a trust exists, a certificate of lien shall be attached to the resulting trust and would require the director to mail written notices of that determination to the transferor and transferee, as prescribed.

2025 WC and H&S 2-Year Bills

[AB 694](#)

(McKinnor D) Department of Industrial Relations: advisory committee: occupational safety and health.

Status: 8/29/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 7/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes the Division of Occupational Safety and Health in the Department of Industrial Relations, and charges the division with the enforcement of various laws affecting safe working conditions, including the California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973. Existing law requires the Director of Industrial Relations to prepare and submit to the Legislature an annual report on the activities of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, as specified. Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, as one of the segments of postsecondary education in the state. Existing law requires the Department of Industrial Relations to contract with the University of California, Los Angeles Labor Center, to conduct a study evaluating opportunities to improve worker safety and safeguard employment rights, as specified, and to convene an advisory committee to make recommendations regarding the scope of the study, as described. This bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to contract with the University of California, Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program and the University of California, Los Angeles Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program to conduct a study to evaluate the understaffing and vacancies within the division and make recommendations to the department, the Department of Human Resources, and the Legislature on policies the state shall use to inform the consideration and establishment of career pathways to the Compliance Safety and Health Officer classification. The bill would authorize the University of California to subcontract the responsibility for conducting the study to other specified entities. The bill would require the University of California and its subcontractors, if any, to issue a report that includes certain information about the understaffing and vacancies of Compliance Safety and Health Officers within the division. The bill would further require the University of California to convene an advisory committee consisting of members from specified state agencies, worker advocacy organizations, other academic institutions, and other entities, as specified, to make recommendations regarding the scope of the above-described study, and provide specified findings and recommendations to the division, as prescribed. The bill would require the advisory committee, within 60 days of entering into the contract the University of California, to hold at least one meeting, and the department, 18 months after entering into the contract with the University of California, to post the completed report on the division's internet website and to forward the completed report to the members of the advisory committee, the Governor, and specified legislative committee chairs. The bill would define terms for these purposes, and include finding and declaration relating to these provisions. This bill contains other existing laws.

[AB 1048](#)

(Chen R) Workers' compensation.

Status: 9/8/2025-Read second time. Ordered to third reading. Re-referred to Com. on RLS. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10(b). Re-referred to Com. on L., P.E. & R. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10(b). (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) Withdrawn from committee. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

Is Urgency: N

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 medical provider may contact to seek a copy of the relevant, applicable 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 received within 30 business days of the provider's request, the bill shall be reprocessed and paid, as specified.

[AB 1110](#)

(Ortega D) Safety rules and regulations: notice.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. on 4/3/2025) (May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law requires the Division of Occupational Safety and Health of the Department of Industrial Relations to prepare a notice, to be posted by employers, containing information regarding safety rules and regulations in the workplace. Existing law requires the notice to contain specified items of information, including, among other things, the address and telephone number of the nearest division office. This bill would also require the notice to contain the email address of the nearest division office.

[AB 1163](#)

(Elhawary D) Employees: workplace violence prevention plans: topics and trainings.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes the system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state, and provides for the establishment of the local educational agencies, including school districts, that establish and operate the schools and provide instruction to pupils throughout the state. Existing law also establishes the system of public higher education in this state, including the operation of community colleges. This bill, contingent upon an appropriation for its purposes, would require the State Department of Education to, on or before January 1, 2027, develop a deescalation training and make it publicly available on its internet website. The bill would require, commencing in the 2026–27 academic year, and annually thereafter, a school district, county office of education, charter school, or community college to, for employees who regularly interact with pupils or students, require training on deescalation techniques designed to minimize the likelihood of pupils or students committing violent acts, as provided. By imposing additional duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

[AB 1209](#)

(Rodriguez, Michelle D) Workers' compensation: cannabis industry.

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was B.&P. on 4/2/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law, the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), approved by the voters at the November 8, 2016, statewide general election, regulates the cultivation, distribution, transport, storage, manufacturing, testing, processing, sale, and use of marijuana for nonmedical purposes by people 21 years of age and older. The existing Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA), among other things, consolidates the licensure and regulation of commercial medicinal and adult-use cannabis activities. This bill would authorize the administrative director or their agent to require an employer that is licensed or required to be licensed under MAUCRSA to provide proof that it has secured payment of workers' compensation to the administrative director or their agent. The bill would authorize the administrative director or their agent to establish a schedule for compliance that includes dates for when a licensee may be required to comply with these requirements. The bill would require the administrative director to provide assistance to any employer or entity that notifies the administrative director that it has been unable to obtain coverage and authorize the administrative director to extend the deadline for compliance, and would exempt any employer that secures the payment of workers' compensation pursuant to these provisions from civil or criminal liability for prior failure to secure the payment of compensation. The bill would authorize the administrative director to contract with one or more agents to assist employers in complying with these provisions, as specified. This bill contains other existing laws.

[AB 1424](#)

(Rodriguez, Celeste D) Corrections.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/7/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Under existing law, the California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health investigates complaints that a workplace is not safe and may issue orders necessary to ensure employee safety. Under existing law, certain violations of those provisions or a standard, order, or special order authorized by those provisions are a crime. This bill would require the division, by December 1, 2026, to submit a rulemaking proposal for the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board's review and adoption, specifically applicable to workers in any prison or institution under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 1498**(Soria D) Workers' compensation: medical treatment.**

Status: 5/1/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was INS. on 3/13/2025)
(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes a workers' compensation system, administered by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, to compensate an employee, as defined, for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Existing law requires an employer to provide medical treatment that is reasonably required to cure or relieve an employee from the effects of the injury. Existing law allows employers to create networks of medical treatment providers to send employees to for treatment. Existing law sets out criteria for these networks and exceptions for when an employee may be treated outside of the network. This bill would require the administrative director to establish a statewide medical provider network database, consisting of physicians who are willing and able to treat injured employees in the San Joaquin Valley region. The bill would require an employee to first seek treatment within their employer's or insurer's network, unless the employer's or insurer's network is unable to treat the employee within 30 days of the request for medical treatment. The bill would require physicians, in order to be included in the network, to, among other things, be in good standing with the Medical Board of California and agree to comply with the official medical fee schedule, as specified. The bill would require the administrative director to implement the network on or before January 1, 2027. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 1515**(Committee on Labor and Employment) Professional employer organizations.**

Status: 9/11/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 9/8/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing federal law provides for certification of a professional employer organization (PEO) by the Secretary of the Treasury and, for purposes of specified taxes and other obligations, treats a PEO as the employer of any work site employee performing services for any customer of the PEO. Existing law establishes the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, headed by the Labor Commissioner, within the Department of Industrial Relations, for the purpose of enforcing labor laws. This bill would prohibit a person from providing, advertising, or otherwise holding oneself out as providing professional employer services, as defined, in the state unless the person is registered with the division. The bill would require a PEO, as defined, upon registration, to pay an initial registration fee established by the division not to exceed the reasonable cost of registration.

SB 234**(Niello R) Wildfires: workgroup: toxic heavy metals.**

Status: 8/28/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 7/16/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to do certain things with respect to fire prevention, including organizing fire crews and patrols. This bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control, in consultation with specified entities, to form a workgroup related to exposure to toxic heavy metals after a wildfire. The bill would require the workgroup to do certain things, including establishing best practices and recommendations for wildfire-impacted communities, first responders, and other personnel engaged in wildfire response and cleanup to avoid exposure to heavy metals after a wildfire, including outreach. The bill would authorize the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to contract with public universities, research institutions, and other technical experts to support the work of the workgroup. The bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control to report their findings to the Legislature not more than 3 years after the convening of the first meeting of the workgroup.

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

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

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

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 632

(Arreguín D) Workers' compensation: hospital employees.

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

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 668

(Hurtado D) Workers' compensation: medical-legal expenses: fee schedule.

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/5/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Is Urgency: N

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

Summary: Existing law establishes a workers' compensation system, which provides for comprehensive medical-legal evaluations to assist in the resolution of contested claims. Under existing law, fees for medical-legal evaluations are charged at a rate not to exceed a physician's regular fee, or the fee schedule set by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation, whichever is lower. Existing law requires that the schedule set fees for procedures according to relative values and a conversion factor, allowing for modifiers, as specified. Existing law requires the medical-legal fee schedule to be revised at the same time the fee schedule for medical treatment is revised. This bill would authorize the administrative director to adjust the fee schedule every 2 years based on an evaluation of certain medical practice costs, including increases in the conversion factor and the per-page cost of reviewing records, as specified. The bill would require the administrative director to update the fee schedule at the time they adopt and revise the reasonable maximum fees for, among other things, drugs and pharmacy services provided to an injured employee.