

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 2.7
(ID # 23164)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, October 31, 2023

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for October 2023, [All Districts] [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for October 2023.

ACTION:Consent

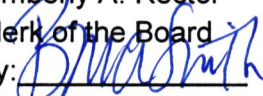

Carolina Salazar Herrera, Deputy Director of Legislative Advocacy 10/26/2023

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is received and filed as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: Perez
Date: October 31, 2023
xc: E.O.

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at State/Federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations.

ATTACHMENTS:

Monthly Advocacy Update (October 2023)
California Lobbyists End of Session Report

MONTHLY ADVOCACY UPDATE

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at state/federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations. The Monthly Advocacy Update is meant to meet that requirement.

This report includes updates on the County's federal and state legislative advocacy efforts, legislation of interest, and copies of advocacy letters sent.

Outreach & Communications

- County leaders met with Assembly Member Bill Essayli to discuss legislative priorities on 10/12/23.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

RivCo Bill List

118th Congress

- **H.R.696 (Rep. Calvert, Ken [CA-41])** To direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.1 on 02/07/23]
- **H.R.726 (Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [MI-9])** To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and to encourage training opportunities for military veterans to assist in range management activities, and for other purposes.
Position: Watch
- **H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1])/S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY])** Exempts discharges of fire retardant by Federal land management agencies and local governments from the permitting requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.
Position: Support

CALIFORNIA STATE ADVOCACY

2023 Legislative Session

The California state legislature ended the first year of its two year legislative session on Thursday, September 14, 2023. The Governor had until October 14, 2023, to sign or veto bills. This report includes updates on new laws that were signed by the Governor, as well as the status of bills that were of interest to the County. The advocacy strategy and impact are

highlighted where appropriate. Copies of the legislative correspondence which was sent on behalf of Riverside County and its affiliates are included as attachments.

The County took formal positions on 20 pieces of legislation. The three bills the County sponsored were signed into law.

There are additional bills of interest to the County that were advocated on through various associations including the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Urban Counties Caucus (UCC). The County's legislative team highlighted some the key bills in their end of session report (see attached 'California Lobbyists End of Session Report').

During the next legislative session, the Executive Office will work with County departments to develop a comprehensive and formal watch list, which will include bills which have the potential to significantly impact the County.

Chaptered

- **AB 386 (Nguyen-D) California Right to Financial Privacy Act.** This bill will improve the capability of Adult Protective Services (APS) to fulfill its obligation to protect seniors and disabled adults from financial abuse.
Position: Sponsored via California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)
Impact: The bill was proposed by the RivCo Department of Public Social Services and was formally sponsored by the CWDA.
- **AB 505 (Ting-D) The Office of Youth and Community Restoration.** Revises the local planning process and the process by which the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) reviews local implementation plans and expands the scope of OYCR's role and authority.
Position: Oppose
- **AB 641 (Fong-D) Automobile dismantlers: catalytic converters.** Revises the definition of an automobile dismantler to include a person in possession of catalytic converters and expands the scope of that crime.
Position: Support [Per Agenda Item 3.8 on 08/29/23]
- **AB 1399 (Friedman-D) Veterinary medicine: veterinarian-client-patient relationship: telehealth.** This bill expands the allowable use of telehealth in veterinary settings.
Position: Support
- **AB 1448 (Wallis-R) Cannabis: enforcement by local jurisdictions.** Strengthens local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities by authorizing local governments to pursue statutory civil penalties.
Position: Support
Impact: This bill will grant the County greater enforcement tools to go after illegal cannabis operators.
- **AB 1519 (Bains-D) Vehicles: catalytic converters.** This bill makes it a misdemeanor to remove or alter any vehicle identification number (VIN) or other unique marking on a catalytic converter.
Position: Support [Per Agenda Item 3.8 on 08/29/23]
- **SB 75 (Roth-D) Courts: Judgeships.** This bill would authorize 26 additional judgeships, subject to appropriation. This bill would require the Judicial Council to determine the

allocation of those positions, pursuant to their uniform criterion, resulting in six additional judges for Riverside County Courts.

Position: Sponsored via Senator Roth [Per Board Agenda Item 3.5 on 01/24/23]

Impact: The bill could increase judicial appointments pending future appropriations.

- **SB 371 (Ochoa Bugh-D) Undomesticated burros.** This bill would authorize a nonprofit that contracts with a county to provide services to undomesticated burros.

Position: Sponsor

Impact: This bill was proposed by RivCo Animal Services. This bill will allow animal services to work with nonprofit providers to provide services to the burro population.

- **SB 602 (Archuleta-D & Seyarto-R) Trespass.** This bill will authorize a single request for assistance to be made and submitted electronically, allowing for streamlined enforcement of trespassing.

Position: Support

Impact: This bill will help County's code enforcement partners streamline their existing processes.

Vetoed

- **AB 1057 (Weber-D) California Home Visiting Program.** Codifies the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP), which the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) created administratively.

Position: Support

Impact: The bill would have provided funds to local health departments to support pregnant people and parents with young children, providing funding and policy opportunities for RUHS Public Health's health equity work.

2 Year Bills

- **AB 444 (Addis-D) California Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP).** Would establish the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program, which would require the Office of Planning and Research, to grant funds to local agencies, which would assist with applications and matching fund requirements, for the federal DCIP.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Support

Impact: The bill could help RivCo more strategically apply for DCIP funds to help the March Air Reserve Base community.

- **AB 827 (Garcia-D) Public health: pulmonary health: Salton Sea region.** Would require the State Department of Public Health to conduct a study of the pulmonary health of communities in the Salton Sea region.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Support

Impact: This bill could help RUHS Public Health inform and advance health equity work in the Salton Sea.

- **AB 1168 (Bennett-D) Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS.** Would change the key provisions of the EMS Act, creating a fractured local EMS (LEMSA) system in which local jurisdictions could opt out of our current LEMSA.
Status: Held Senate Floor Inactive File
Position: Oppose
Activation: In addition to partnering with the opposition coalition, EMD staff met with legislative offices to advocate against the bill.
- **SB 21 (Umberg-D) Civil actions: remote proceedings.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in civil cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.
Status: Held by Author
Position: Support [Per Agenda Item 3.3 on 05/02/23]
Impact: This bill would allow for greater efficiency and increased court access, promoting efficient Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act implementation.
- **SB 22 (Umberg-D) Courts: remote proceedings.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in juvenile cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.
Status: Held in Assembly
Position: Support
Impact: This bill would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its county partners in addressing persistent backlogs.
- **SB 45 (Roth-D) California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund.** Creates the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund and would continuously appropriate moneys to provide loans to qualifying county or city and county applicants for the purpose of building or renovating acute care psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric health facilities, or psychiatric units in general acute care hospitals, as defined.
Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support
- **SB 99 (Umberg-D) Courts: remote proceedings for criminal cases.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in juvenile cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.
Status: Held in Assembly Public Safety Committee at request of the Author
Position: Support
Impact: This bill would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its county partners in addressing persistent backlogs.
- **SB 318 (Ochoa Bogh-R) 211 Infrastructure.** This bill would establish the 211 Support Services Grant Program, which would enhance and scale 211 services across California.
Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
Position: Support
Impact: This bill supports statewide 211 operations, capacity, and grant funding for the various network partners.
- **SB 366 (Caballero-D) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.** This bill would complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy, ensuring there are reasonable water supply targets.
Status: Held in Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife at request of the Author

Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.4 on 11/01/22]

Advocacy Strategy: This bill is being proposed by the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition as a solution to creating more reasonable water targets.

- **SB 418 (Padilla-D) Prison Redevelopment.** This bill would establish the California Prison Redevelopment Commission to prepare a report with recommendations that deliver clear and credible recommendations for creative uses of closed prison facilities and will turn those sites into community assets.

- **Status:** Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.2 on 05/09/23]

Impact: This bill could be a vehicle for the County and community of Blythe to look at the impacts of the proposed prison closure.

August 18, 2023

TO: The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

FROM: California State Association of Counties
Urban Counties of California
Rural County Representatives of California
Chief Probation Officers of California
County of Contra Costa
County of Fresno
County of Marin
County of Riverside
County of Sacramento
County of Ventura

**RE: AB 505 (Ting) – The Office of Youth and Community Restoration: OPPOSE as amended 8/14/2023
Set for hearing 8/21/2023 – Senate Appropriations Committee**

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the Chief Probation Officer of California (CPOC), and the Counties of Contra Costa, Fresno, Marin, Riverside Sacramento, and Ventura, we write in respectful opposition to AB 505, by Assembly Member Phil Ting, which seeks to make changes to several key provisions of SB 823, the 2020 legislation that realigned full responsibility for the juvenile justice continuum to county governments.

While we acknowledge the efforts to narrow the scope of AB 505 and appreciate recent amendments, counties remain concerned with several provisions that disrupt the vital governance principle that responsibility must be accompanied by the authority to implement. The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) realignment framework enacted in SB 823 is explicit with respect to realigning responsibility from the state to county governments for the population of young people who previously were eligible for placement in a DJJ facility and under the state's

jurisdiction. AB 505 would erect barriers to counties' efforts to thoughtfully and successfully carry out DJJ realignment by fracturing the important link between the *responsibility* for addressing the needs of youth previously under state jurisdiction and the *authority* to develop, guide, implement, and support a responsive local plan.

Counties' opposition centers on provisions related to boards of supervisors' authority to make local expenditure decisions (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] Section 1991) along with changes in WIC Section 1995 to the subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council. Counties find it wholly inappropriate that the subcommittee charged with developing a plan to support and treat the young people in our care and custody could be deprived of the leadership and guidance of the county department head responsible and fully accountable for carrying out the realigned responsibilities. Additional revisions to WIC Section 1995 around counties' submission of local plans to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) and the OYCR's subsequent review are ambiguous and unnecessary.

From a fiscal perspective, AB 505 continues to contemplate considerable and newly mandated state and local costs associated with all of the following: expanded inspections of local juvenile detention facilities; new processes and responsibilities for local planning subcommittees, including mandated meeting frequency, mandated plan updates annually versus every three years, and newly required elements in the local plan; potential funding delays given interactions between WIC Section 1995 (e) and (f); and, finally, broadened OYCR responsibilities given required annual site visits and added requirements to accessing the expansive list of county records defined in the bill, all of which will have an impact on county staffing and resources.

Regrettably, the undersigned counties and county associations must continue to oppose AB 505 given that it could disrupt the DJJ realignment funding stream; inappropriately weaken county oversight and administrative authority; and create additional barriers to local implementation efforts. The proposed changes would not, in our view, advance what certainly are our shared goals – to ensure that trauma-informed, evidence-based care and treatment are provided to the youth and young adults in counties' care and to create strong and sustainable pathways for successful youth outcomes in our communities. Please feel free to reach out if there are any questions. Thank you.

cc: The Honorable Phil Ting, Member of the Assembly
Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Correspondence Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

July 31, 2023

The Honorable Phil Ting
Member of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite xxx
Sacramento CA 95814

**RE: AB 505 (Ting) – The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
As amended 6/15/2023 – Oppose
Awaiting hearing – Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our opposition to AB 505, your measure that would expand the scope of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), a state office established as part of the realignment of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to county governments in 2020. Additionally, AB 505 would also make several substantive changes to the 2020 realignment structure that the County of Riverside believes would interfere with counties' continued implementation of responsibilities associated with the youth and young adult population now in our care and custody.

The County of Riverside prides itself on an array of intra-county partnerships as well as a strong network of community-based organizations to support the diverse needs of justice-involved youth and young adults in our community. Since the passage of SB 823 (2020), we have committed ourselves to strategizing collaboratively with our Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Subcommittee to develop the infrastructure of facilities, programs, placements, supervision, and reentry strategies necessary to provide health-focused, trauma-informed rehabilitative and supportive strategies for this population. We are proud of the work we are doing in offering a continuum of upstream interventions as well as youth- and young adult-focused treatment and programming in the community and in-custody settings.

With that as a backdrop, we are concerned that AB 505 would improperly and unnecessarily interfere with the funding mechanism, JJCC Subcommittee leadership, and board of supervisors' authority in carrying out the responsibilities clearly and explicitly transferred to county governments under the 2020 Division of Juvenile Justice Realignment. Although we join other counties and the statewide county associations in their concerns regarding the overall impact of growing the scope and reach of OYCR, our primary concerns about this measure center on the

changes to the local plan approval process, the inappropriate threat of withholding a county's annual allocation to support realigned responsibilities, and the removal of the probation chief as the chair of the JJCC Subcommittee. Furthermore, the proposed change to Section 1991 of the Welfare and Institutions Code that would usurp a board of supervisors' core budgetary authority is objectionable. Taken together, these aspects of AB 505 would undermine county authority and greatly impede a collaborative and thoughtful approach to addressing the needs of youth and young adults previously eligible for DJJ placement who now are in the care and custody of county governments.

It is for these reasons that the County of Riverside must respectfully oppose AB 505. We thank you for considering our perspective. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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September 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 505 (Ting) – Office of Youth and Community Restoration
REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to respectfully request your veto on AB 505, Assembly Member Phil Ting's measure that would expand the scope of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), a state office established as part of the realignment of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to county governments in 2020. AB 505 would also make several substantive changes to the 2020 realignment structure that the County of Riverside believes would interfere with counties' continued implementation of responsibilities associated with the youth and young adult population now in our care and custody.

The County of Riverside prides itself on an array of intra-county partnerships as well as a strong network of community-based organizations to support the diverse needs of justice-involved youth and young adults in our community. Since the passage of SB 823 (2020), we have committed ourselves to strategizing collaboratively with our Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Subcommittee to develop the infrastructure of facilities, programs, placements, supervision, and reentry strategies necessary to provide health-focused, trauma-informed rehabilitative and supportive strategies for this population. We are proud of the work we are doing in offering a continuum of upstream interventions as well as youth- and young adult-focused treatment and programming in the community and in-custody settings.

With that as a backdrop, we are concerned that AB 505 would improperly and unnecessarily recast various elements of the local planning process, OYCR's review of local plans, and the governance of the local planning body charged with developing an implementation plan. The measure also would increase the scope and reach of OYCR, requiring expenditure of considerable county staff time and resources that would be better invested in direct services to the young people in the county's care. Riverside County is committed to building supportive systems and services to meet the needs of those in our care as well as designing strong pathways for successful

community transition, AB 505 would impede rather than advance our community's ability to achieve these important goals.

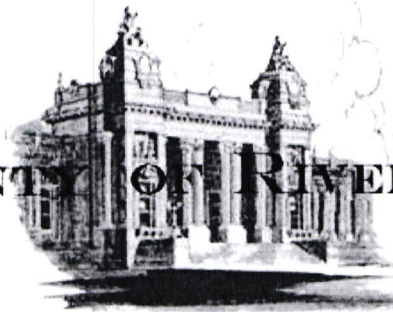
For these reasons, the County of Riverside must respectfully request your veto of AB 505. We thank you for considering our perspective. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries", written in a cursive style.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Corresponding Board of Supervisors

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September 20, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 531 (Irwin): The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024
As amended 9/11/23 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 531, which would enact the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024, and authorize, subject to voter approval, the issuance of \$6.38 billion in general obligation (GO) bonds to be issued for funding community-based treatment and residential care settings, as well as permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and those with behavioral health challenges.

The County is particularly appreciative of recent amendments that include \$1.5 billion in new bond authority for the purposes of grant funding to local agencies for the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of infrastructure to expand the continuum of behavioral health treatment resources to build new capacity or expand existing capacity for a variety of treatment options, including acute and subacute care for persons with behavioral health disorders.

Given the significant needs of our communities, the County of Riverside has prioritized investments in our behavioral health infrastructure; in fact, we are actively planning for the replacement of our existing acute care psychiatric facility with a modern, 100-bed facility that will better integrate mental health, substance use, and physical health services to achieve the best outcomes for our patients. AB 531 offers a significant opportunity to move this critical project forward to increase our capacity as a safety-net hospital and to provide timely, high quality, and patient-centered care that more fully meets the needs of our population.

The County of Riverside's existing 1980's Emergency Treatment Services/Inpatient Treatment Facility is outdated and, despite considerable renovations over the past four years, fails to adequately meet current state and federal guidelines. The County plans to replace this outdated facility with a modern, expanded facility on our existing Medical Center campus in Moreno

Valley that includes an additional 180,000 square feet of space, housing 100 inpatient acute behavioral health beds (including much-needed pediatric and adolescent beds), emergency treatment services, and space for support staff.

To that end, we are grateful for the additional resources that – upon approval of voters – will be made available for these purposes and are in strong support of Assembly Bill 531. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Jacqui Irwin, California State Assembly
The Honorable Richard Roth, California State Senate
The Honorable Susan Eggman, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation
Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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September 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 641 (V. Fong) – Auto dismantlers: catalytic converters
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 641, which would revise the definition of automobile dismantler, thereby making it a misdemeanor for a person to possess nine or more used catalytic converters that have been cut from a vehicle unless they are a licensed automobile dismantler.

Not unlike other areas of the state, catalytic converter theft has increased exponentially in the County of Riverside – in the last year alone, these incidents have increased by more than 50 percent in the unincorporated area. Hundreds of our community members have been targeted, some multiple times. This month, our Board of Supervisors adopted a county ordinance to provide additional tools to address community and victim impacts. Specifically, our ordinance will authorize law enforcement to penalize someone unlawfully in possession of a catalytic converter in Riverside County's unincorporated areas. Additionally, it requires anyone in possession of a catalytic converter to show proof of ownership, and those unlawfully in possession of a catalytic converter will now be subject to criminal and civil penalties, including misdemeanor theft charges and penalties up to \$5,000 for repeat offenses.

AB 641 proposes to make necessary, common-sense changes to the law to help stem the tide of catalytic converter theft in our state. Along with other policy proposals currently before the Legislature – will strengthen law enforcement's ability to hold thieves accountable for these crimes. This particular theft creates a series of cascading effects for victims – including considerable inconvenience during long waits for replacement parts and expensive repairs.

The County of Riverside is committed to working with our local partners to do our part in stemming this wave of catalytic converter theft in unincorporated Riverside County. For these

reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully encourages your signature when this measure comes before you. Thank you for considering Riverside County's perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Vince Fong, State Assembly
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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September 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1057 (Weber): California Home Visiting Program
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of AB 1057 by Assembly Member Akilah Weber. This bill would grant local health departments flexibility to administer the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) in a manner that more equitably meets the unique needs of each community.

Specifically, the bill would authorize local health departments to: 1) use any one of the evidence-based models approved by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program; 2) utilize an alternative public health nursing model submitted to and approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and 3) authorize local health departments to supplement their home visiting program with mental health supports.

Currently, CDPH only allows three evidence-based home visiting models to be administered as part of the CHVP, while the federal MIECHV Program allows 20 evidence-based models to be administered. While we applaud the current models and the great impact they have, there are limitations. The three models currently in use do not fully address families experiencing mental health issues, homelessness, perinatal substance use and other high-risk circumstances.

For example, in Riverside County mothers dealing with substance use disorders are better served by less intensive and shorter-term home visiting programs. However, our ability to support these women is limited because they are either not eligible for the current models or the current models don't allow for the types of services needed. The flexibility to implement additional models and/or to submit a public health nurse model for CDPH's approval will allow the County of Riverside Department of Public Health to expand the reach and impact of our home visiting programs.

Further, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of Riverside has seen a growing need to provide enhanced support for our children and families. Currently, only one of the three CDPH approved models incorporate mental health supports. According to CDPH, one in five California women experience symptoms of depression during or after pregnancy. CDPH also states that Black and Latina women, women who have low incomes, or those who experienced hardships in their childhood or during pregnancy are at heightened risk of having symptoms of depression.

Allowing local health departments to supplement home visiting with mental health supports, and including training for home visiting staff, will permit our County's visiting program to support more parents and families during the perinatal period where they are most vulnerable to maternal mental health disorders.

AB 1057 gives local health departments additional tools to better meet the needs of families and children served by CHVP. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Akilah Weber, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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September 20, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1399 (Friedman and Lowenthal): Veterinary medicine: veterinarian-client-patient relationship: telehealth
As amended 9/6/23 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 1399, a measure that seeks to expand the use of telehealth in veterinary medicine. Like other shelters in California, ours is experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of pets that people are unable to care for; AB 1399 is an important modification to address the health of abandoned pets in our community.

Specifically, AB 1399 expands access to veterinary care by removing stringent barriers related to veterinary telehealth. In doing so, it will assist those who have difficulty accessing veterinary care, including those pets who live with families in remote or underserved areas, those that are stressed by transportation and clinic environments, and those who belong to older Californians who have mobility and transportation challenges.

California's strict veterinary telehealth regulations are antiquated and out-of-step with those experiences in other states and lessons learned during the pandemic. AB 1399 would allow a "Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship" ("VCPR") to be established via video in circumstances where a licensed California veterinarian employs sound professional judgement that they can deliver the same standard of care, has reviewed any relevant medical history, and is able to ensure that they can maintain client privacy. Clients must provide consent and be made aware that they may choose an in-person appointment, if they desire to do so, and the acting veterinarian must be able to refer the client to a local veterinarian for in-person care if needed or requested.

In Riverside County, the County's shelter system remains overburdened by an increased population, with a significant increase in puppies and kittens entering shelters. This is primarily due to a limited capacity for veterinary services that has resulted in a lack of meaningful spay

and neuter programs available to address cat and dog reproduction rates and an inability for vaccination rates to keep up with population increases. Further, increased veterinary costs for these services are a deterrent to rescue groups that may have capacity to accept or transfer animals from County facilities.

With crisis level lack of access to veterinarians across the state and at every income level, AB 1399 is an important tool to assist in caring for our state's pet population. Temporary relaxations of veterinary telehealth regulations during the pandemic demonstrated that California's veterinarians and their clients can be trusted to utilize telehealth services appropriately. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Laura Friedman, California State Assembly
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Correspondence Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

August 10, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
1020 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1399 (Friedman and Lowenthal): Veterinary medicine: veterinarian-client-patient relationship: telehealth
As amended 7/13/23 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Senator Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for AB 1399, a measure that seeks to expand the use of telehealth in veterinary medicine. Like other shelters in California, ours is experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of pets that people are unable to care for; AB 1399 is an important modification to address the health of abandoned pets in our community.

Specifically, AB 1399 expands access to veterinary care by removing stringent barriers related to veterinary telehealth. In doing so, it will assist those who have difficulty accessing veterinary care, including those pets who live with families in remote or underserved areas, those that are stressed by transportation and clinic environments, and those who belong to older Californians who have mobility and transportation challenges.

California's strict veterinary telehealth regulations are antiquated and out-of-step with those experiences in other states and lessons learned during the pandemic. AB 1399 would allow a "Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship" ("VCPR") to be established via video in circumstances where a licensed California veterinarian employs sound professional judgement that they can deliver the same standard of care, has reviewed any relevant medical history, and is able to ensure that they can maintain client privacy. Clients must provide consent and be made aware that they may choose an in-person appointment, if they desire to do so, and the acting veterinarian must be able to refer the client to a local veterinarian for in-person care if needed or requested.

In Riverside County, the County's shelter system remains overburdened by an increased population, with a significant increase in puppies and kittens entering shelters. This is primarily

due to a limited capacity for veterinary services that has resulted in a lack of meaningful spay and neuter programs available to address cat and dog reproduction rates and an inability for vaccination rates to keep up with population increases. Further, increased veterinary costs for these services are a deterrent to rescue groups that may have capacity to accept or transfer animals from County facilities. Telehealth services may streamline care and increase the ability to perform these critical functions.

With crisis level lack of access to veterinarians across the state and at every income level, AB 1399 is an important tool to assist in caring for our state's pet population. Temporary relaxations of veterinary telehealth regulations during the pandemic demonstrated that California's veterinarians and their clients can be trusted to utilize telehealth services appropriately. Indeed, telehealth has become relied upon for human medicine, it stands to reason that it can be responsibly deployed for veterinary medicine as well.

It is for these reasons that the County of Riverside respectfully requests your "aye" vote on AB 1399. We thank you for considering our perspective. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation
The Honorable Laura Friedman, California State Assembly
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, California State Assembly

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Correspondence Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1448 (Wallis) – Cannabis: Enhanced Enforcement
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 1448, Assembly Member Greg Wallis' measure that seeks to strengthen local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities. Like many other jurisdictions across the state, the County of Riverside is interested in securing additional tools to address the regulatory, taxation, environmental, health as well as public safety challenges associated with the unlicensed cannabis industry.

Regrettably, the illicit cannabis market continues to flourish despite legalization of recreational cannabis use more than seven years ago and considerable legislative efforts in the intervening years to curb ongoing, unlicensed, and unregulated activities. We appreciate that AB 1448 would enhance existing provisions in Business and Professions Code section 26038 to: (1) strengthen requirements around demonstrating that a person aided and abetted unlicensed cannabis activities; (2) clarify the public prosecutors who may bring actions for civil penalties under this section; and (3) specify that if the action is brought by a public prosecutor at the local level then any civil penalties remaining after reimbursing local counsel for their associated costs would be split equally between the local entity and the state.

AB 1448 would create useful, appropriate, and thoughtfully crafted incentives for local governments to pursue statutory civil penalties associated with unlicensed cannabis operations. Importantly, revenues from these actions would then be available as a much-needed resource to reinvest in local enforcement efforts. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Greg Wallis, Member of the Assembly

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Correspondence Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1519 (Bains) – Vehicles: catalytic converters
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 1519, which would create a new misdemeanor for (1) deliberate acts to remove, alter, obfuscate a vehicle identification number (VIN) or other unique marking that has been added to a catalytic converter or (2) knowing possession of a catalytic converter where the VIN has been removed, altered, or obfuscated.

Not unlike other areas of the state, catalytic converter theft has increased exponentially in the County of Riverside – in the last year alone, these incidents have increased by more than 50 percent in the unincorporated area. Hundreds of our community members have been targeted, some multiple times. This month, our Board of Supervisors adopted a county ordinance to provide additional tools to address community and victim impacts. Specifically, our ordinance will authorize law enforcement to penalize someone unlawfully in possession of a catalytic converter in Riverside County's unincorporated areas. Additionally, it requires anyone in possession of a catalytic converter to show proof of ownership, and those unlawfully in possession of a catalytic converter will now be subject to criminal and civil penalties, including misdemeanor theft charges and penalties up to \$5,000 for repeat offenses.

The new misdemeanor authorized in AB 1519 – along with other policy proposals currently before the Legislature – will strengthen law enforcement's ability to hold thieves accountable for these crimes. AB 1519 contains appropriate restrictions to ensure that the new misdemeanor would not apply in instances when a person removes, alters, or obfuscates a VIN or other marking if the act takes place in the course of installing a new or destroying a catalytic converter otherwise lawfully in their possession. We think the additional deterrent offered in AB 1519 will help communities across the state in addressing this troubling crime trend, which creates a series of

cascading effects for victims – including considerable inconvenience during long waits for replacement parts and expensive repairs.

The County of Riverside is committed to working with our local partners to do our part in stemming this wave of catalytic converter theft in unincorporated Riverside County. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully encourages your signature when this measure comes before you. Thank you for considering Riverside County's perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries", written in a cursive style.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Jasmeet Bains, State Assembly
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Correspondence Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 12, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 75 (Roth) – Additional Superior Court Judgeships
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on SB 75, Senator Richard Roth's measure that would create 26 additional superior court judgeships. This bill would build on the important investments your Administration has made to enhance trial court capacity and improve access to justice by funding all previously authorized judicial positions. These investments will have a positive, material effect on our county's criminal justice partners and will facilitate our ability to better fulfill core county responsibilities related to matters before the court.

As required in statute, the Judicial Council of California assesses superior courts' workload and subsequently produces a biennial report regarding statewide judgeship needs. The Judicial Needs Assessment then prioritizes placement of additionally required judicial officers based on need. The latest assessment, published in fall 2022, identifies a need for 98 additional judicial officers to meet statewide workload and caseload demands. Riverside County has the second largest shortfall in assessed judicial need – the superior court's workload warrants an additional 23 judicial officers, which represents nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the overall statewide need for 98 judicial officers. Even after the 2022-23 budget funded 23 previously authorized judgeships – including four that were directed to the Riverside County Superior Court – the gap between local trial court workload and assessed judicial need remains vast. Steep population growth in Riverside County over the last several decades has greatly outpaced the trial court's ability to keep up with the attendant demand on judicial resources.

SB 75 would take another necessary and appropriate step in addressing the clearly demonstrated shortfall in judicial resources across the state. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully encourages your signature when this measure comes before you. Thank you for considering Riverside County's perspective.

The County of Riverside is committed to working with our local partners to do our part in stemming this wave of catalytic converter theft in unincorporated Riverside County. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully encourages your signature when this measure comes before you. Thank you for considering Riverside County's perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries", written in a cursive style.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Richard D. Roth, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Correspondence Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

August 21, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 371 (Ochoa Bogh): Undomesticated burros
As amended 4/12/23 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 371, Senator Rosalicie Ochoa Bogh's measure that would authorize a county to contract with a nonprofit entity to assist in the removal, relocation, and medical care for undomesticated burros. This important measure will assist the County to address public safety concerns associated with a growing population of undomesticated burros, while ensuring the protection of the burro population.

Undomesticated burros have been roaming Reche Canyon in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since the 1950s. Today, the burro population in the area is estimated to be well over 1,000, causing major traffic collisions on streets, highways, and railroads, several of which have resulted in deaths.

Although Riverside County Department of Animal Services is authorized to relocate burros under certain circumstances, a lack of staff and resources to treat, rehabilitate, and safely relocate injured burros has created a frustrating situation locally. A local shortage of veterinarians exacerbates this considerable challenge. The Inland Empire, however, is also home to private nonprofit partners who are dedicated to helping serve the burro population. These organizations have financial resources and a cast of dedicated volunteers, in addition to specialized veterinary resources. The County seeks the authority to contract with these nonprofit organizations to assist in managing the burro population, to ensure the health and wellbeing of the burro population and to improve public safety.

To that end, we respectfully urge your most positive consideration of SB 371 when it comes before you for your signature. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact

Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries", written in a cursive style.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Rosalicie Ochoa Bogh, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Correspondence Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 12, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 602 (Archuleta) – Trespass
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to respectfully request your signature on SB 602, Senator Bob Archuleta's measure that would facilitate local governments' more efficient response to public nuisance and graffiti issues. As the bill states, these improvements will be accomplished by making several changes to the body of trespass law under Section 602 of the Penal Code.

SB 602 would extend, as specified, the operative timeframe for Letters of Agency. These are authorizations granted by a property owner, or agent for the owner, that gives permission to a local law enforcement agency to check on a business or property for trespassers and, if necessary, make associated arrests. The measure proposes an extension from 30 days to either 12 months or a time period specified by local ordinance – whichever is shorter – for properties where there is a fire hazard or if the owner is absent.

Additionally, SB 602 would require trespass letters of authorization to be submitted in writing on a form provided by law enforcement and would allow trespass letters of authorization to be submitted electronically. With over 7,300 square miles to cover, these processing enhancements will streamline the County's ability to enforce trespassing issues across the County's vast geography.

Taken together, the provisions in SB 602 would facilitate enforcement of existing trespass laws and assist communities like the County of Riverside in addressing these issues. For these reasons, I respectfully request your signature on this measure when it comes before you. Thank you for considering Riverside County's perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jeffries". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" being more prominent than the last name "Jeffries".

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Bob Archuleta, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, Riverside County Delegation



HURST+BROOKS+ESPINOSA

Final Legislative Wrap-up Outcomes on Key Legislation in 2023

Below is a summary of dozens of key pieces of priority legislation that the Governor has acted on in the signing period that ended on October 14, 2023. A total of 1,046 bills reached the Governor's desk in the 2023 legislative year; all told, he signed 890 bills and vetoed 156, for a 14.9% veto rate. Should you have questions on these bills or any others, please do not hesitate to reach out to the HBE Team.

Signed by the Governor

- **AB 33 (Bains)** – Establishes, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, the Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force to undertake specified duties relating to fentanyl abuse. The measure contained an urgency clause to ensure the provisions of this bill take effect immediately, although funding has not been appropriated to support the task force. (See SB 19 by Senator Kelly Seyarto discussed below.)
- **AB 40 (Rodriguez)** – Requires local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) to adopt an ambulance patient offload time (APOT) standard, not to exceed 30 minutes, 90% of the time. This bill also requires a hospital to develop an APOT reduction protocol to facilitate a rapid reduction in APOT to the adopted standard when the standard has been exceeded for one month. This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority, when a hospital has exceeded the adopted APOT standard for the preceding month, to report the exceedance to the LEMSA which is required to alert all emergency medical services providers in their jurisdiction, direct the hospital to implement the APOT reduction protocol, and host bi-weekly calls with relevant hospital administrators and other stakeholders.
- **AB 242 (Wood)** – Will permanently authorize a federally certified critical access hospital (CAH) to employ physicians and charge for their services.
- **AB 268 (Weber)** – Makes changes to the composition of the BSCC Board as well as to the scope of its regulatory duties. Specifically, the measure increases – effective July 1, 2024 – the membership of the BSCC from 13 to 15 members. The new Board members, a licensed health care provider and a licensed mental health care provider, will be gubernatorial appointees subject to confirmation by the Senate. Additionally, AB 268 requires the BSCC, beginning July 1, 2024, to develop and adopt regulations setting minimum standards for mental health care at local correctional facilities that

either meet or exceed the standards for health care services in jails established by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, as specified.

- **AB 338 (Aguiar-Curry)** – Expands the definition of public works, for which prevailing wage must be paid to workers, to include publicly funded fuel reduction work that is done under contract as part of a fire mitigation project and falls within an apprenticeship occupation in the building and construction trades.
- **AB 386 (Nguyen)** – Expands the type and amount of financial records that must be provided during law enforcement investigations of suspected financial elder abuse.
- **AB 426 (Jackson)** – Increases enforcement and penalties for unlicensed residential facilities for foster youth. The bill allows the state to place a “temporary manager” over a residential foster care facility and fine county staff; it also increases penalties on counties for unlicensed placements from \$200 to \$5,000 per day. Additionally, AB 426 allows the state to impose civil penalties on a person that fails to “locate appropriate placements for all of the foster children and youth residing in an unlicensed facility within 60 days after receiving the formal statement of allegations.”
- **AB 505 (Ting)** – Revises several provisions negotiated in SB 823 (2020), the measure that realigned Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) responsibilities from the state to counties. AB 505: (1) makes changes to the leadership structure of the local planning body, (2) revises the local planning process and the process by which the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) reviews local implementation plans as well as increases the frequency of required plan updates, and (3) expands the scope of OYCR’s role and authority.
- **AB 531 (Irwin)** – Enacts the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023, a major component of the Governor’s behavioral health modernization proposal. The measure includes \$6.38 billion for housing and treatment, including acute psychiatric beds. Select sections of AB 531 and SB 326 (Eggman) – as specified in each bill – will appear as Proposition 1 on the March 2024 ballot.
- **AB 663 (Haney)** – Authorizes a county, city and county, and special hospital’s authority to operate more than one mobile pharmacy units. This bill provides that the pharmacist-in-charge will determine how many mobile units are appropriate for a particular pharmacy license. It also makes clarifying changes regarding controlled substances to the current authorization of a county or a city and county to operate a licensed mobile unit to provide prescription medication to individuals within the county’s jurisdiction.
- **AB 701 (Villapudua)** – Enhances penalties for fentanyl-related trafficking by applying to fentanyl the existing weight enhancements that increase the penalty and fine for trafficking substances containing heroin, cocaine base, and cocaine.

- **AB 764 (Bryan)** – Updates the procedures local agencies must follow when adjusting the boundaries of the districts used to elect members of their governing bodies and establishes a procedure for legal challenges when a local jurisdiction does not comply with redistricting requirements.
- **AB 1448 (Wallis)** – Strengthens local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities by authorizing local governments to pursue statutory civil penalties.
- **AB 1484 (Zbur)** – Requires inclusion of temporary employees in the same bargaining unit as permanent employees upon request of the recognized employee organization to a local public employer.
- **AB 1637 (Irwin)** – Requires a local agency (with the exception of special districts and school districts) that maintains a website and email addresses accessible to the public to utilize a “.gov” or “.ca.gov” domain no later than January 1, 2029.
- **SB 4 (Wiener)** – Creates a streamlined by-right approval process for housing on lands owned by churches and qualifying higher education institutions.
- **SB 19 (Seyarto)** – Establishes, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, the Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force to undertake specified duties relating to fentanyl abuse. (SB 19 mirrors AB 33 by Assembly Member Jasmeet Bains described above.)
- **SB 35 (Umberg)** – Makes various changes to the Community, Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act ([SB 1338](#), 2022), including provisions to clarify and modify the CARE Court process, the obligations and responsibilities of CARE petitioners and county behavioral health agencies, and the provisions relating to a respondent’s privacy and the circumstances under which a health care provider may share the respondent’s health care information with a behavioral health agency in the course of the CARE process.
- **SB 43 (Eggman)** – Expands the definition of “gravely disabled,” for purposes of involuntarily detaining an individual, to include a condition in which a person, as a result of a severe substance use disorder (SUD) or co-occurring mental health disorder with severe SUD, is unable to provide for their personal needs. Includes personal safety and necessary medical care as “personal needs.” As amended late in the legislative year, the bill allows a county to opt in and clarifies the hearsay section.
- **SB 75 (Roth)** – Authorizes the creation of 26 new superior court judgeships, subject to an appropriation, which would be distributed to courts – once funded – based on the Judicial Council’s biennial Judicial Needs Assessment.
- **SB 91 (Umberg)** – Eliminates the January 2025 sunset date for a CEQA exemption for projects that convert motels and hotels into supportive or transitional housing.

- **SB 326 (Eggman)** – Revises and recasts the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) as the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), representing the second major component of the Governor’s behavioral health reform package. Select sections of SB 326 and AB 531 – as specified in each bill – will appear as Proposition 1 on the March 2024 ballot.
- **SB 406 (Cortese)** – Creates a CEQA exemption for actions undertaken by a local agency to provide financial assistance or insurance for low- and moderate-income residential housing projects.
- **SB 423 (Wiener)** – Eliminates the sunset date and expands the applicability of the ministerial by-right approval process for eligible housing projects created by SB 35 (2017).
- **SB 519 (Atkins)** – Requires public disclosure of records relating to investigations conducted into local in-custody deaths, as specified, and establishes within the BSCC the position of Director of In-Custody Death Review. That new position will be responsible for reviewing investigations of any death incident occurring within a local detention facility, as defined; the Director of In-Custody Death Review will be appointed by the Governor, is subject to Senate confirmation, and will serve six-year terms. Note that a previous version of this measure would have authorized counties to establish a department of corrections responsible for jail operations (rather than the sheriff); those provisions were amended out of SB 519 in favor of creating the state-level position to oversee in-custody death investigation review.
- **SB 525 (Durazo)** – Establishes a phased-in, multi-tiered wage schedule to bring pay for specified health care worker to \$25/hour. Although there is no signing messaging, a *Politico* article this week notes that the Governor signed the bill with the “condition that lawmakers send him a follow-up bill imposing economic off-ramps.” It is unclear what this means. However, given the Governor’s broad concerns about cost pressures on the General Fund – as demonstrated through other veto messages – and the Department of Finance’s fiscal estimate of \$1 to 2 billion in state costs to implement SB 525, we presume that the Administration is concerned about state cost pressures associated with the bill. We don’t expect to see more details until January when the Legislature returns. In the meantime, HBE has put together a summary of the main provision in SB 525, found [here](#).
- **SB 548 (Niello)** – Authorizes a county and a trial court that have a joint contract with the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) for the provision of retirement benefits for their employees to voluntarily separate the contract into two individual contracts.

- **SB 701 (Hurtado)** – Modernizes and expands boards of supervisors’ authority to impose a registration requirement and annual fee schedule on fruit and vegetable wholesalers; increases the maximum fee from \$250 to \$500.
- **SB 747 (Caballero)** – Makes numerous changes to the Surplus Land Act (SLA) including expanding the definition of exempt surplus land, modifying SLA procedures, defining disposals of surplus land to include leases of longer than 15 years, in addition to other changes.
- **SB 749 (Smallwood-Cuevas)** – Eliminates the deadline to file petitions for relief by persons seeking reduction of prior felony convictions to misdemeanors as authorized under Proposition 47 (2014).
- **SB 770 (Wiener)** – Directs the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency to pursue discussions with the federal government to obtain a waiver to enable creation of a comprehensive health care system with unified financing.
- **SB 789 (Allen)** – Moves SCA 2 (2022), SCA 5 (2023), and ACA 1 (2023) to the November 5, 2024 state ballot.

Vetoed by the Governor

- **AB 41 (Holden)** – Would have made comprehensive changes to existing state law enacted by the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006 (DIVCA), which this bill renames the Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023 (DEVFA). Governor Newsom vetoed AB 41 this week, expressing concerns that the bill did not go far enough to reform DIVCA. The Governor’s veto message can be viewed [here](#).
- **AB 504 (Reyes)** – Would have established and protected the right of public employees, except certain “essential employees”, to engage in sympathy strikes. AB 504 was vetoed by the Governor, citing a number of concerns raised by local governments, including the potential to disrupt access to critical safety net programs. The Governor’s veto message is available [here](#).
- **AB 1057 (Weber)** – Would have given additional flexibility to local health jurisdictions to administer more Home Visiting Programs that address the unique needs of their communities and provide support to families who need it most. The Governor’s [veto message](#) directs the California Department of Public Health to ensure there is collaboration with home visiting partners, local health directors, local health officers, and other affected stakeholders to meet local California Home Visiting Program needs. The message also notes the bill’s fiscal impact as a concern, as well as cost pressures if the California Home Visiting Program approves additional home visiting models outside of the annual budget process.

- **AB 1085 (Maienschein)** – Would have required the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to seek any necessary federal approvals for a Medi-Cal benefit to cover housing support services, under specified conditions. In his [veto message](#), the Governor notes that the costs to implement AB 1085 – estimated by DHCS to range between \$18.3 million to \$40.4 million annually – were not included in the budget.
- **AB 1207 (Irwin)** – Would have strengthened provisions barring the advertisement or marketing of cannabis or cannabis products that are attractive to children, as defined. In the Governor’s [veto message](#), he cites concerns that the limitations contemplated in the bill are overly broad and would be unlikely to provide meaningful protections for children beyond what’s in current law.
- **AB 1248 (Bryan)** – Would have required a city or county with over 300,000 residents and a school district or community college district with over 500,000 residents to establish an independent redistricting commission (IRC). AB 1248 was vetoed by the Governor, citing the considerable mandated costs associated with the bill. In his veto message, available [here](#), the Governor cited the need to consider such costs within the state budget process.
- **AB 1512 (Bryan)** – Would have required ending the practice of recouping the costs of a child's time in foster care through collecting their survivor's and/or disability benefits provided through Social Security Income (SSI). The Governor’s [veto message](#) notes cost concerns, citing a concern that if counties are not permitted to use SSI to cover the cost of providing care to foster youth, the General Fund will need to offset those costs; those additional cost pressures were not contemplated as part of the budget process.
- **SB 799 (Portantino)**: Would have allowed individuals engaged in a trade dispute to collect unemployment insurance benefits after a two-week waiting period. In his [veto message](#), the Governor cites the instability of the state’s Unemployment Insurance Fund and his concern for expanding costs beyond the existing, significant costs associated with an outstanding loan from the federal government to the state for unemployment insurance debt.