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28TH SENATE DISTRICT



**East Valley Republican Women Federation
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

Leg Update:

California State Legislators voted on thousands of bills and budget proposals during the 2021 Legislative Session, which officially came to an end on Friday, September 10. Any bills that did not make it through the process may be considered or reintroduced during the 2022 Legislative Session. October 10th was the Governor's deadline to sign a bill into law, veto it so it never becomes law, or simply take no action and let it become law. Below are several legislative proposals authored by Senator Melendez, helpful bills proposed by other legislators and additional measures she has been tracking.

Melendez Bills

SB 319 (Melendez) – Annual Audit Report Transparency

This bill is sponsored by the Desert Valleys Builders Association. It will close a loophole in the Mitigation Fee Act by requiring an entity to provide an annual report to show use of impact fees for each year they failed to. This simple change will increase transparency and ensure the general public and or/ builders have an opportunity to review and question new or adjusted fees.

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 350 (Melendez) – Fentanyl Advisement

Would require a court to read an advisement to individuals charged with illegally making or selling controlled substances, including fentanyl that he or she can be charged with murder if they continue to make or sell them and someone dies.

Status: Died in Senate Public Safety Committee

SCR 5 (Melendez) – Ends the COVID State of Emergency

This Resolution would provide a check and balance by ending the Governor's declared State of Emergency, which has allowed him significant power for more than 459 days and by which he has changed more than 200 laws.

Status: Was not set for a Hearing

SB 722 (Melendez) – Alex's Law

This would provide an extra layer of safety precaution by requiring a school sponsored event taking place around a pool to have an adult supervisor present who has updated CPR certification.

Status: Signed by the Governor

Helpful Bills

AB 73 (Rivas) – Wildfire Masks

Provides agricultural employers access to the CDPH PPE stockpile during a wildfire smoke emergency.

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 285 (McGuire and Melendez) – Tourism Industry Support

Would provide \$45 million in advertising funding to stimulate tourism in California – includes both internal and inter-state tourists – to be used only once the state has met safety benchmarks.

Status: Was accomplished through the budget

SB 287 (Grove) – Trailer Pulling Updates

Allows certain drivers to tow heavy trailers starting 2027. Specifically, a class C license holder will be able to tow a 10,000-15,000 pound trailer if it is not for compensation or commercial purposes. This will allow recreationalists and horse enthusiasts to tow their weekend trailers without having to undergo commercial licensing requirements and additional fees required for heavier commercial trailers.

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 804 (Dahle) – Free Hunting Days

Requires the director of Fish and Wildlife to establish 2 free hunting days per year in California.

Status: Signed by the Governor

Other Bills

SB 2 (Bradford) – Officer De-certification

Develops a process for lifetime de-certification for peace officers. Additionally creates a very biased advisory board which may include individuals who have, or is related to someone who has, experienced use of force by an officer.

Status: Signed by the Governor

ACA 8 (Lee) – Wealth Tax

This Constitutional Amendment proposes to impose a massive tax increase, described as “a 1% surcharge for amounts above \$50 million, and 1.5% for amounts above \$1 billion” upon all forms of personal property or wealth, despite California already having the highest income tax in the country. The California Chamber of Commerce has dubbed this a “job killer” bill. It also creates a task force on wealth tax administration. The authors anticipate \$22 billion annually in taxes to the state.

Status: Assembly Rules Committee – This bill was never set for a hearing.

AB 14 (Aguilar-Curry et al.)/SB 4 (Gonzalez) – Phone Tax Increase

Increases taxes on phone customers to fund broadband despite a \$4.4 billion investment for broadband included in the 2021 Budget Act.

Status: Signed by Governor

AB 37 (Berman) – VBM Mandate

Requires that a vote by mail ballot be mailed to every active registered voter. It additionally makes it so that VBM ballots arriving up to seven days after the election as long as their ballots are signed and dated, regardless of if the envelope is postmarked.

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 48 (Gonzalez) – Limiting Crowd Control Measures

Places limits on the use of rubber bullets and pepper spray when controlling a crowd, and could put a peace officers life in danger during protests.

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 57 (Wiener) – Meth Dens

This bill would provide drug addicts a facility in which to use illegal drugs like meth and heroin, in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Oakland. It requires having staff on hand to provide overdose reversal medication as well as drug use paraphernalia like clean needles.

Status: Assembly Health Committee

SB 70 (Rubio) – Mandatory Kindergarten

Requires a student to have completed one year of kindergarten before being admitted to the first grade of a public school. Therefore, this bill expands compulsory education to include kindergarten.

Status: Held Until Next Year

AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) – Police Officer Requirements

Creates minimal requirements to become a peace officer, including a set minimum age of 21 and to meet certain education requirements. These requirements include both the modern policing degree program and bachelor's degree in the discipline of their choosing.

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 101 (Medina, 2021) – Ethnic Studies

Requires students, starting with those graduating in 2029/30, to complete a one semester course in ethnic studies. Starting with the 2025–26 school year, it would schools and charter schools serving students in grades nine through 12 to offer at least a one-semester course in ethnic studies.

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 262 (Hertzberg) – Bail bonds

Would leave it up to a court if an arrestee needs to pay bail, and if they do, what level of bail they can afford to pay. This could impact peace officers in the event the arrestee is released and commits a violent crime.

Status: Held Until Next Year

SB 264 (Min) – Firearm Restrictions

Prohibits the sale of firearms, firearm precursor parts, or ammunition at the OC County Fair and Event Center.

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 271 (Wiener) – Loosens County Sheriff Requirements

Removes requirements in place to become a county sheriff. Currently, candidates are required to have certification from the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), or certain educational degrees and full time salaried law enforcement experience. This bill would make it so any citizen over 18 years old, with no law enforcement experience, could be elected sheriff.

Status: Held Until Next Year

SB 300 (Cortese) – Special Circumstance Murder

Amends Prop 115 (1990) by prohibiting someone who was a major participant in a special circumstance murder (think: race, during sexual offense, torture, kidnapping), and not the murderer, from being sentenced to death or life without parole for their actions connected to the crime. A real life example of someone who could be impacted by this bill becoming law would be Pearl Fernandez. She was charged and convicted of first-degree murder, with special circumstances of torture, of her eight year old son, Gabriel Fernandez.

Status: Held Until Next Year

AB 333 (Kamlager) – Gang Member Crimes

Makes it more difficult for a district attorney to hold gang members accountable for their violent crimes. Specifically, it strips away the chance for the jury to consider the suspect's involvement in a gang as a link to why they committed the crime being considered.

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 395 (Caballero) – E-Cig Tax

Imposes an excise tax on electronic cigarettes. The funding would be used to improve access for disadvantaged students to study health professions. The tax would be imposed on retailers equal to 12.5% of all money earned from selling e-cigarettes.

Status: Senate Appropriations - Suspense File

AB 481 (Chui) – Limiting Police Resources

Creates certain requirements for a law enforcement agency regarding acquisition and use of military equipment. Would make it more difficult of peace officers to obtain and use resources that could aid in protection of themselves or their communities.

Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 519 (Wiener) – Legalizes Psychedelic Drugs

Aims to legalize for recreational use for those 21 + certain hallucinogenic substances, including mushrooms and acid like LSD, DMT and MDMA.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 937 (Carrillo) – Sanctuary State Protections for Felons

Would effectively provide sanctuary-state protections for all felons, including those convicted of murder, rape, torture, sex crimes, human trafficking, crimes against children, gang crimes, etc. This would hinder law enforcement's ability to protect the community by prohibiting them from cooperating with federal immigration authorities.

Status: Held Until Next Year

AB 1084 (Low) – Gender Neutral Store Set-up

This bill would require businesses, with 500 + employees, which sells children's items, including clothes and toys, to have a gender neutral retail department rather than divided areas for "boys" and "girls" marketed items.

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 1177 (Santiago) – Public Banking

Creates the California Public Banking Option Act, and establishes a nine-member Public Banking Option Board to create and run the BankCal Program. Developing a public banking option is risky and costly. A coalition of financial services trade associations and other business groups have come out in opposition, suggesting that alternatives already exist.

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

AB 1223 (Levine) – Gun Taxes

Would have added a new 10% excise tax on new handguns and 11% on long guns, rifles, firearm precursor parts, and ammunition.

Status: Held Until Next Year

AB 1346 (Berman) – Banning Gas Powered Lawn Mowers

Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to adopt regulations to ban the sale of new internal combustion small off-road engines that have more than 25 horse power by January 1, 2024. This would include equipment used in lawn care (lawn mowers, leaf blowers), portable generators and other power tools.

Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 1400 (Kalra) Government-Run Health Care

This measure would have eliminated private insurance and choice-based healthcare by creating an exorbitantly expensive new state-run health care system that will cost California more than \$400 billion. Proponents have concerns about the cost impacts this would have on taxpayers, decreases in access to health care, diminish quality of healthcare, and eliminate jobs in California.

Status: Assembly Rules – This bill was never set for a hearing.