

California EDGE Coalition's Legislative Update October 2, 2020

On September 30th, Governor Newsom took final action on all remaining bills that the legislature passed after concluding the 2019-2020 session. Some of the high-profile measures that will be enacted into law are related to racial justice, rental housing, worker protections, college student assistance, and support for small businesses, which are intended to protect and bolster the state's economic recovery. As we officially conclude this historic and unprecedented legislative year, we know there is much work to be done to address the needs of California's most underserved populations, including low-income students, adult learners, dislocated workers, and businesses. EDGE remains committed to fighting for policies and investments that will support economic mobility for all Californians as we gear up for the upcoming 2021-2022 budget and legislative cycle. To view our end of session recap, click [here](#).

Below is a list of legislative measures with their outcomes that EDGE was closely tracking. EDGE positions are noted with bills that the Coalition took action on.

2019-2020 EDGE Position Bills

[AB 1457 \(Cervantes\)](#) Regional business training center network: pilot project.

POSITION: OPPOSE

SUMMARY: This bill would have required the Employment Training Panel to establish a pilot project to enhance the regionally focused statewide business training center network of community college contract education centers to partner with other assistance providers serving small businesses.

STATUS: VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR.

[AB 1930 \(Medina\)](#) Public postsecondary education: University of California and California State University: student eligibility policy.

POSITION: SUPPORT

SUMMARY: This bill would have required the CSU trustees, and request the UC regents, before making any change in undergraduate student eligibility policy that adds new eligibility requirements, as described, that impact students across its segment, to engage in discussions with and coordinate with other educational segments that will be impacted by the policy in order to understand the impacts of the policy and try to align their respective student eligibility policies.

STATUS: HELD IN SEN. APPROPRIATIONS.

[AB 2884 \(Berman\)](#) California State Lottery: revenue allocation.

POSITION: SUPPORT

SUMMARY: Would make legislative findings and declarations relating to the allocation of lottery funds to community colleges. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature to ensure that restricted lottery funding allocated to community colleges is spent in full for the benefit of students.

STATUS: SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

[AB 3307 \(Garcia, Eduardo\)](#) California Manufacturing Emergency Preparedness Act of 2020.

POSITION: SUPPORT

SUMMARY: Would have enacted the California Manufacturing Emergency Preparedness Act of 2020, which would authorize I-Bank to establish the California Manufacturing Disaster Loan and Loan Guarantee Program for the purpose of attracting, retaining, retooling, establishing, and expanding manufacturing and logistics capacity in the state, and would require I-Bank to establish guidelines for

the implementation and oversight of the program. The bill would prohibit I-Bank from commencing the program until it adopts a resolution finding that there is sufficient funding in the account to cover the costs of implementing the program and that the I-Bank has sufficient direction from the Director of the Office of Emergency Services, as provided.

STATUS: HELD IN SEN. APPROPRIATIONS.

ACA 5 (Weber) Government preferences.

POSITION: SUPPORT

SUMMARY: The California Constitution, pursuant to provisions enacted by the initiative Proposition 209 in 1996, prohibits the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. The California Constitution defines the state for these purposes to include the state, any city, county, public university system, community college district, school district, special district, or any other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of, or within, the state. This measure would repeal these provisions, reinstating affirmative action.

STATUS: SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SB 291 (Leyva) Postsecondary education: California Community College Student Financial Aid Program.

POSITION: SUPPORT

SUMMARY: Would have established the California Community College Student Financial Aid Program, to provide need-based grant awards to eligible community college students who attend a California community college voluntarily designated by its district governing board to participate in the program, as specified. Subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, the bill specifies that the program shall be administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and implemented by the eligible California community colleges.

STATUS: 2-YEAR BILL. FAILED.

SB 1130 (Gonzalez, Lena) Communications: California Advanced Services Fund.

POSITION: SUPPORT

SUMMARY: Would have required the Public Utilities Commission to develop, implement, and administer the California Advanced Services Fund program to encourage deployment of 21st century-ready communications, as provided. The bill would provide that the goal of the program is instead to, no later than December 31, 2024, approve funding for infrastructure projects that will provide high-capacity, future-proof broadband infrastructure. The bill would have also required the commission, in approving infrastructure projects, to approve projects with a goal of providing high-capacity internet to households that are unserved areas, or unserved high-poverty areas.

STATUS: ORDERED TO INACTIVE FILE. FAILED.

AB 570 (Aguilar Curry) Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: This bill would have authorized local educational agencies to report to the department their pupils' estimated needs for computing devices and internet connectivity adequate for at-home learning. The bill would have also required the department, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to compile that information and to annually post that compiled information on the department's internet website.

STATUS: ORDERED TO INACTIVE FILE. FAILED.

[AB 1035 \(Ramos\)](#) COVID-19 emergency: small businesses: immunity from civil liability.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: Would have exempted a small business with 25 or fewer employees from liability for an injury or illness to a person due to coronavirus (COVID-19) based on a claim that the person contracted COVID19 while at that small business, or due to the actions of that small business. The bill would require the small business, for this exemption to apply, to have implemented and abided by all applicable state and local health laws, regulations, and protocols.

STATUS: FAILED DEADLINE.

[AB 1731 \(Boerner Horvath\)](#) Unemployment insurance: work sharing plans.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: Current law provides for the payment of unemployment compensation benefits to eligible persons who are unemployed through no fault of their own. Existing law deems an employee unemployed in any week if the employee works less than their usual weekly hours of work for the employee's regular employer as the result of the employer's participation in a work sharing plan that meets specified requirements and has been approved by the Director of Employment Development, pursuant to which the employer, in lieu of layoff, reduces employment and stabilizes the workforce. Current law requires an employer who wishes to participate in the work sharing program to submit to the director a signed, written work sharing plan application form that meets specified requirements. This bill, until January 1, 2024, would create an alternative process for the submission and approval of employer work sharing plan applications.

STATUS: SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

[AB 2388 \(Berman\)](#) Public postsecondary education: basic needs of students.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: Current law requests campuses of the California Community Colleges to give priority for certain student housing to current and former homeless youth, as specified, and requests those campuses to develop a plan to ensure that current and former homeless youth can access housing resources during and between academic terms, including during academic and campus breaks. Current law defines homeless youth for these purposes. This bill would express legislative findings and declarations about the impact of basic needs insecurity on college students.

STATUS: FAILED DEADLINE.

[SB 987 \(Hurtado\)](#) Community college premedical pathway pilot program.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: Would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish a pilot program for purposes of facilitating premedical pathways to medical school for students attending community colleges.

STATUS: FAILED DEADLINE.

[SB 1103 \(Hurtado\)](#) Workforce training programs: supportive services.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: Would have required the California Workforce Development Board to establish and administer the Lifting Families Out of Poverty Supportive Services Program. The bill would require the board, upon appropriation by the Legislature for that purpose, to make \$25,000,000 in grants available

to consortia, composed of combinations of local workforce development boards, community colleges, or other stakeholders, that apply for funding to provide supportive services, as defined, and are approved in accordance with the bill.

STATUS: HELD IN ASM. APPROPRIATIONS.

SB 1232 (Glazer) CalWORKs: postsecondary education.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: Would require that specified CalWORKs eligible individuals participating in a full time or part time educational activity at a publicly funded postsecondary educational institution and making satisfactory progress, as specified, receive a standard payment of \$175 to \$500 per semester or quarter, which may be provided, in whole or in part, in the form of a book voucher, or reimbursement for verified actual expenses for the purpose of paying costs associated with attending the postsecondary educational institution.

STATUS: SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SB 1333 (Durazo) Corporation Tax Law: credits: employment: homelessness.

POSITION: WATCH

SUMMARY: Would have allowed a credit under the Corporation Tax Law for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2026, to a qualified taxpayer that employs an eligible individual during the taxable year, in an amount between \$2,500 and \$10,000 per eligible individual, not to exceed \$30,000 per taxable year, depending on the amount of hours worked by the eligible individual. The bill would define various terms for purposes of the credit, including defining "eligible individual" as a person who is homeless. The bill would require an eligible employer to obtain an eligible employer certification from the Employment Development Department to receive the credit, and would require the Employment Development Department to issue a certification to eligible employers, as specified.

STATUS: FAILED DEADLINE.

For more information about our positions on specific legislation, please contact:

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