

EDGE Policy Update

September 2021

September 10th was the end of session deadline, where hundreds of bills were voted on by the Legislature. EDGE is excited to see the passage of our priority bills that are now on the Governor's desk! The Governor has until October 10th to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature, and we are working hard to ensure measures that are intended to support working families, adult learners, students earning low incomes, and industry are chaptered into law.

In addition to the policy measures, various budget trailer bills also advanced during the last week of session and were passed by the Legislature, including the Community Economic Resilience Fund, which will provide financial support to regional stakeholder collaboratives to plan and implement region and industry-specific economic strategies, with a focus on supporting high-road jobs. These budget trailer bills build upon the Governor's [2021-22 State Budget Act](#), a historic \$262.6 billion spending plan that will support California's working families, businesses, and the economy. Read more in our budget overview [here](#).

As we near the Governor's October 10th deadline, EDGE continues advocacy efforts on our priority bills and remains committed to pandemic response and recovery efforts that will advance policies to support our business community, dislocated workers in low-wage occupations, provide stable resources to our community colleges, invest in support services for students and adult learners, and expand training opportunities for California's most underserved populations - all while prioritizing racial and economic equity.

Highlighted below are several bills that EDGE took official positions this legislative session. This list will be updated as pending legislation is being reviewed by the Governor. To join us in advocacy efforts, view our call to action [here](#).

For more information about EDGE's positions and efforts, please contact Anna Alvarado, Policy Director, at aalvarado@caedge.org.

EDGE Priority Bills

[AB 99 \(Irwin\)](#) California Cradle-to-Career Data System.

Position: Support

Summary: Would implement the recommendations of the CA Cradle-to-Career Data System Legislative Report, which describes the planning process and recommendations for phase one of the Cradle-to-Career Data System. The bill would set the vision, mission, and strategic objectives of the data system.

Status: 2-Year Bill – implemented in the budget.

AB 106 (Salas) Regions Rise Grant Program.

Position: Support

Summary: Would establish the Regions Rise Grant Program within GO-Biz to support regional innovative strategies to address housing, homelessness, workforce, sustainability, and public health. The state program intends to provide competitive grants for multijurisdictional collectives that involve local and regional governments, labor, community-based organizations, and private and civic organizations covering locally-defined economic regions, to adopt a comprehensive shared prosperity strategy focused on the priority challenges of the respective region.

Status: 2-Year Bill – implemented in the budget.

AB 221 (Santiago) Emergency food assistance.

Position: Support

Summary: Would require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide food assistance benefits statewide to low-income Californians, regardless of immigration status; contract with certain entities to issue the food assistance benefits; and conduct a study to provide recommendations to a permanent food assistance program for low-income California residents experiencing food insecurity, regardless of immigration status.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations.

AB 417 (McCarty) Rising Scholars Network: justice-involved students.

Position: Support

Summary: Would authorize the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges to establish the Rising Scholars Network program to enter into agreements with up to 50 community colleges to provide support services funding for justice-involved students.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

AB 628 (E.Garcia) Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative.

Position: Support

Summary: Would build upon the Breaking Barriers to Employment legislation by expanding access and eligibility for community-based organizations to supply training and support services.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

AB 1036 (E. Garcia) CA Manufacturing Emergency Preparedness Act of 2021.

Position: Support

Summary: Would enact the CA Manufacturing Emergency Preparedness Act of 2021, which would authorize I-Bank to establish the Manufacturing Disaster Loan Program for the purpose of attracting, retaining, retooling, and expanding manufacturing capacity in the state. Specifically, the loan program would need to meet certain objectives, including the protection and enhancement of the state's long-term manufacturing capacity, and support quality jobs that provide high wages, including benefits.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

AB 1456 (Medina) Student financial aid: Cal Grant Reform Act.

Position: Support

Summary: Would enact the Cal Grant Reform Act, which would revise and recast the provisions establishing and governing the existing Cal Grant programs and the Middle Class Scholarship Program into a new Cal Grant Program. The new Cal Grant Program seeks to remove barriers to

access financial aid, considers the total costs of attendance in award amounts, and will be based on student need.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

SB 4 (Gonzalez) Broadband for All Act.

Position: Support

Summary: Would secure ongoing funding and implement a number of critically needed reforms to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). These changes will help close the digital divide and meet the connectivity needs of Californians, both during this unprecedented pandemic and for decades to come.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

SB 28 (Caballero) Rural Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Video Competition Reform Act

Position: Support

Summary: Would require a collaboration of state departments to compile an inventory and identify all state resources that may be available for use in the deployment of broadband networks in rural, unserved, and underserved communities.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

SB 464 (Hurtado) California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.

Position: Support

Summary: Would make undocumented immigrants eligible for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) if they satisfy all eligibility criteria for participation in CalFresh.

Status: 2-year bill – pending in the Assembly.

SB 609 (Hurtado) CalFresh.

Position: Support

Summary: Would expand the CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) program by including individuals participating in adult education and career tech education programs.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

SB 753 (Roth) California Workforce Development Board: program outcomes.

Position: Support

Summary: Would require the CWDB to evaluate program outcomes for all grant programs it administers, including program participant outcomes, regardless of funding source. SB 753 also requires EDD to permit the use of wage data with the CWDB in order to assist the board in its obligation to evaluate program outcomes for the grant programs it administers.

Status: Pending on the Governor's Desk.

SCR 25 (Hurtado) Adult Education Week.

Position: Support

Summary: This resolution proclaims the week of April 18 to April 24, 2021 as Adult Education Week - honoring the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs statewide for their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments.

Status: Chaptered.