



## **UC Davis State Government Relations Update**

### **April 2021**

*Adrian Lopez*  
*Director, State Government Relations*

*In this Update:*

- *Legislation (Pages 1-5)*
- *State Budget (Page 5)*
- *Upcoming State Government Relations Deadlines, Events and Key Dates (Page 5)*
- *Questions or Need Assistance? (Page 5)*

#### **Legislation**

**AB 32 (Aguiar-Curry)** passed out of the Assembly Health Committee. The bill requires the State Department of Health Care Services to indefinitely continue the telehealth flexibilities in place during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency.

**AB 45 (Aguiar-Curry)** passed out of the Assembly Health Committee. The bill imposes a \$250 fee on each manufacturer who produces industrial hemp products or raw hemp extract, to be used, upon appropriation, to fund an Industrial Hemp Research Program at the UC. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 237 (Gray)** passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill makes it an unfair practice for a covered employer to fail or refuse to maintain or pay for continued health care or other medical coverage for an enrolled employee or their enrolled dependents, for the duration of the enrolled employee's participation in the authorized strike, at the level and under the conditions that coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued to work in their position for the duration of the strike. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 391 (Villapudua)** was sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill appropriates \$5M GF to the Department of Food and Agriculture to fund partnership with the UC Extension Services, California resource conservation districts, and the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to deliver technical assistance, outreach, and provide grants to incentivize participation in state and federal conservation programs where pollinator habitat and forage is established. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 545 (Quirk)** passed out of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. The bill requests UC to perform a comprehensive assessment of major tax expenditures to study, among other things, the legislative intent, the beneficiaries, the number of effected returns or business entities, the cost to the General Fund, the effectiveness of those tax expenditures, and options to modify the tax expenditures to improve their effectiveness or reduce their cost. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 615 (Rodriguez)** was sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill requires a higher education employer to provide a procedure for all medical and dental interns and residents, persons in accredited resident physician subspecialty programs, and other postgraduate medical and dental trainees in unaccredited programs to challenge a termination of employment or a disciplinary action, as defined, by the employer, after the employee has exhausted available administrative or academic grievance processes. The University has an Oppose Unless Amended position on the bill.

**AB 777 (McCarty)** passed out of the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee. The bill authorizes the Department of General Services to transfer, without charge, a parcel of property in Sacramento, California, if that parcel is reported as excess, to the UC Regents to be used by the UC Davis, to provide rental housing to very low, low-, and moderate-income employees, faculty, students, and families who attend or work at the UC Davis. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 809 (Irwin)** passed out of the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee. The bill requires specified state agencies to adopt and implement information security and privacy policies, standards, and procedures based upon standards issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Federal Information Processing Standards. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 858 (Jones-Sawyer)** passed out of the Assembly Health Committee. The bill provides that the use of technology shall not limit a worker who is providing direct patient care from exercising independent clinical judgment in the assessment, evaluation, planning and implementation of care, nor from acting as a patient advocate. It prohibits an employer from retaliating or otherwise discriminating against a worker providing direct patient care who requests to override health information technology and clinical practice guidelines or discusses these issues with other employees or supervisors. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 886 (Chiu)** passed out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee. The bill creates a grant program within the California Health and Human Services Agency to provide grants to community-based organizations for the implementation of mental health services focused on the victims of, and other persons affected by, hate violence, and related hostilities. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 1130 (Wood)** was sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill establishes the Office of Health Care Affordability to analyze the health care market for cost trends and drivers of spending, develop data-informed policies for lowering health care costs for consumers, set and enforce

cost targets, and create a state strategy for controlling the cost of health care and ensuring affordability for consumers and purchasers. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 1131 (Wood)** was sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill establishes the statewide health information network (statewide HIN) governing board, an independent public entity not affiliated with an agency or department with specified membership, to provide the data infrastructure needed to meet California's health care access, equity, affordability, public health, and quality goals. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 1132 (Wood)** passed out of the Assembly Health Committee. The bill makes specified portions of the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) operative only through 12/31/22, requires Medi-Cal managed care plans to operate a Medicare Advantage Dual Special Needs Plan as specified, and makes various changes to the CCI component of the CalAIM initiative. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 1407 (Burke)** passed out of the Assembly Health Committee. The bill requires an approved school of nursing or nursing program to include implicit bias coursework in its curriculum, and requires a hospital to implement an evidence-based implicit bias program as part of its new graduate training program that hires and trains new nursing program graduates. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 1467 (Cervantes)** passed out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. The bill requires postsecondary educational institutions' sexual assault written procedures and protocols to be updated to additionally ensure that sexual assault victims who request assistance from sexual assault counselors or specified entities or processes are provided with alternative housing assignments and academic assistance alternatives. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**AB 1550 (Rivas)** passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill requires represented employees at the University to remain represented by their union when the Regents change the composition of the UC Academic Senate and prohibits the Academic Senate or Regents from creating new positions in the Senate whose functions are substantially similar to represented positions. The University has an Oppose position on the bill.

**SB 2 (Bradford)** passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill enacts the Kenneth Ross Jr. Police Decertification Act of 2021, which provides that a threat, intimidation, or coercion under the Tom Bane Civil Rights Act may be inherent in any interference with a civil right, eliminates certain immunity provisions for peace officers or public entities employing peace officers sued under the act, disqualifies a person from employment as a peace officer if they were convicted of or adjudicated for a violation of certain specified crimes against public justice or if they were decertified, and requires a law enforcement agency to employ only individuals with a current, valid certification or pending certification. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**SB 22 (Glazer)** was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill enacts the Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2022 to provide \$15 billion for construction

and modernization of education facilities, and requires the UC Regents to comply with certain conditions before receiving funds from the 2022 University Capital Outlay Bond Fund. The University has a Support position on the bill.

**SB 40 (Hurtado)** was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill creates the California Medicine Scholars Program to establish a regional pipeline for community college students to pursue premedical training and enter medical school, and involves a selection committee that includes UC among other appointees. The University has a Support position on the bill.

**SB 213 (Cortese)** was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill creates a workers' compensation rebuttable presumption that injuries defined as cancer, musculoskeletal injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and infectious and respiratory diseases including COVID-19, that develop or manifest in a hospital employee who provides direct patient care in an acute care hospital arose out of and in the course of that employment. The University has a Watch position on the bill.

**SB 250 (Pan)** was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill requires health care service plan or health insurance contracts to reimburse a contracting individual health professional the in-network cost-sharing amount for services provided to an enrollee at a contracting health facility, to report the average number of denied prospective utilization review requests, to report on and examine an individual health professional's records on prospective utilization review requests, and to grant individual health professionals a 2-year exemption from this process upon meeting criteria, with authorization for a records audit every 2 years thereafter. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**SB 335 (Cortese)** passed out of the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee. The bill reduces the workers' compensation 90-day time period to 45 days within which if liability is not rejected an injury is presumed compensable, and to 30 days for certain injuries or illnesses sustained while employed as a specified member of law enforcement or as a specified first responder, increases the employer liability for medical treatment under a pending claim to \$17,000, and increases the full amount of an order, decision, or award by 10% if compensation payment is unreasonably delayed or refused. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**SB 371 (Caballero)** was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill directs federal funds to the California Health Information Technology and Exchange Fund, and authorizes the use of the funds for grants to health care providers to implement or expand health information technology and to contract for direct data exchange technical assistance for safety net providers. The University's position on the bill is pending.

**SB 379 (Wiener)** passed out of the Senate Health Committee. The bill prohibits UC from entering into, amending, or renewing a contract with any health facility contractor or subcontractor, except for certain prescribed facilities, in which a UC health care practitioner employee or trainee providing care in the

facility would be limited in their ability to provide patients with medical information or services due to policy-based restrictions on care.

**SB 582 (Stern)** passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The bill enacts the Climate Emergency Mitigation, Safe Restoration, and Just Resilience Act of 2021. The University's position on the bill is pending.

### **State Budget**

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the Senate Democrats released their "Build Back Boldly" budget [proposal](#). This proposal is intended to serve as a starting point for negotiations with the Governor and the Assembly for when the May Revise is released. The higher education items can be found on page 11 and focus on eliminating cuts to UC/CSU and expanding enrollment.

Similarly on April 28<sup>th</sup> the Assembly Democrats released their 2021-22 budget [blueprint](#) which also covers higher education on page 11 and prioritizes attaining 1 million degrees, debt-free college and building affordable student housing.

### **Upcoming State Government Relations Deadlines, Events and Key Dates**

**Apr. 30** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report to appropriations **fiscal bills** introduced in their house.

**May 7** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report to the floor **non-fiscal bills** introduced in their house.

**May 14** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 7.

**May 21** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report to the floor bills introduced in their house.

**May 31** Memorial Day

### **Questions or Need Assistance?**

If you have any questions regarding the aforementioned items or would like assistance in connecting with state legislators and/or their staff, please do not hesitate to contact Adrian Lopez, Director of State Government Relations. He can be reached at [adnlopez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:adnlopez@ucdavis.edu) or by phone at (530) 752-9795.