



TO: State Association of County Retirement Systems
FROM: Cara Martinson, Capitol Advocacy
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RE: Legislative Update – April

The Legislature has returned from its spring recess and is entering the busy April policy committee phase of the legislative session, following the introduction of bills and several weeks of initial committee hearings. As is typical at this stage in the legislative calendar, committees are advancing or holding measures in advance of key policy committee and fiscal deadlines in May.

Concurrently, budget subcommittees are actively reviewing the Governor’s January budget proposal and beginning to develop spending priorities ahead of the May Revision, expected in mid-May. This period represents a critical juncture during which policy priorities and fiscal constraints begin to converge, shaping both the advancement of policy measures through the Appropriations Committees and broader negotiations over the final state budget. Affordability, AI, Data Centers, health care and housing affordability continue to dominate policy conversations.

The gubernatorial election is also entering a more active phase as candidates from both parties prepare for the June 2nd primary. The broader political environment is increasingly influenced by this election cycle, with campaign activity accelerating as candidates raise funds, and stake out positions on policy issues with key stakeholder groups. The gubernatorial field is notably crowded this cycle, particularly on the Democratic side, with multiple high-profile candidates entering the open-seat race. This concentration of Democratic contenders is expected to fragment the vote in the primary, creating a highly competitive environment under California’s top- two system. Buckle-up for a busy summer!

The following is an update on bills that SACRS is actively following:

II. Legislative Update:

- **AB 1054 (Gipson)** - This bill would establish the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) as a voluntary program within PERS for employees of State Bargaining Units 5 (Highway Patrol) and 8 (Firefighters). The bill states that the



DROP becomes effective and applicable only after: 1) the applicable Bargaining Unit has entered into a MOU with the employer to implement the program; 2) The program has been certified via an actuarial analysis that it is cost neutral by the CalPERS Board of Administration; and 2) CalPERS has adopted regulations to implement and administer the program.

- Status: This bill passed out the Assembly and is awaiting action in the Senate.
- Position: No Position/Watch
- **AB 1383 (McKinnor)** – The bill was heard in the Assembly PERS Committee and advanced out of the Appropriations Committee in January after taking several amendments. The bill includes the following provisions:
 - Adjust, on and after January 1, 2027, the pensionable compensation limit to the Social Security compensation limit. The prior version of the bill would have increased the pensionable compensation limit to the higher IRC 415(b) threshold.
 - Lower the retirement age on a prospective basis from age 57 to 55 for three existing safety DB retirement formulas, and
 - Authorize a public employer to create a fourth PEPRA safety DB retirement formula of three percent (3%) at age 55, to be applied prospectively.
 - Amendments this year removed a provision that would have permitted collective bargaining over the 50-50 normal cost sharing requirement.
 - Status: This bill advanced out of the Assembly and is now awaiting action in the Senate
 - Position: Neutral (as recommended by SACRS Legislative Committee)
- **AB 1439 (Garcia)** - The bill would have required labor protection standards on pension system investments in development projections. The bill was amended coming out of the Assembly to now require CalPERS and CalSTRS to contract with the University of California Labor Centers to conduct an independent study to determine the impacts on public employee retirement funds of prohibiting the boards from investing in California development projects that do not provide labor standards protections for workers. The bill no longer applies to the CERL systems and removes SACRS' opposition.
 - Status: The bill passed out of the Assembly and is awaiting action in the Senate.
 - Position: No position/watch



- **AB 1601 (Rogers)** – This bill would permit the county Board of Supervisors for Sonoma County to authorize a cost-of-living adjustment to the retirement allowances, optional death allowances, or annual death allowances payable by the retirement system.
 - Status: This bill has been set for hearing in the Assembly PERS Committee on 4/8.
 - Position: Neutral (as recommended by SACRS Legislative Committee)

- **AB 1619 (Valencia)** – This bill would allow county Boards of Supervisors to authorize an increase in the Board of Retirement trustee per diem from \$100 to \$320. The bill would then require action by the Board of Retirement to establish the increased compensation rate.
 - Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee
 - Position: Neutral (as recommended by SACRS Legislative Committee)

- **AB 1660 (Schiavo)** – This bill would require a court to award sanctions of no less than \$1,000 per violation if a financial institution, private agency, retirement fund administrator, insurance company, or other person fails to comply with existing requirements to provide information or surrender property of a decedent, minor, or conservatee to a public administrator or public guardian that is authorized to take possession and control of such property.
 - Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and is awaiting action in the Assembly Appropriations Committee
 - Position: Pending

- **AB 1762 (Gonzalez)** – This bill extends Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA) authorization contract for health benefits to the City of Indio for employees hired from January 1, 2025, onward. It sets conditions such as collective bargaining agreements and requires at least five years of service for any benefit eligibility. The bill applies only to retirees after the approval of the memorandum of understanding and mandates that the City of Indio provide necessary notifications and information.
 - Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee
 - Position: No position/watch

- **AB 1844 (Pacheco)** – This bill modifies the Judges' Retirement System II, to give judges more flexibility in designating beneficiaries for their retirement benefits. This bill would authorize a judge who elects one of the optional retirement payment plans in lieu of receiving the maximum retirement allowance to designate a beneficiary other than their spouse to receive the



- payment or allowance after the judge's death, subject to the community property rights of the judge's spouse. Additionally, the bill extends existing survivor benefits to non-spouse beneficiaries, removing the stipulation that the judge must have served a minimum of 20 years if they die in office.
- Status: This bill passed out the Assembly and is awaiting action in the Senate.
 - Position: No position/watch
- **AB 2336 (Macedo)** – This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2031, exclude from gross income the first \$25,000 of overtime pay received by a taxpayer during the taxable year. The bill would also exclude from gross income the first \$25,000 received by a taxpayer as proceeds from a defined benefit plan.
 - Status: This bill is will be heard in the Assembly PERS Committee on 4/13
 - Position: No position/watch
 - **AB 2780 (Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement) – Public Retirement Systems: Omnibus Bill** - This bill includes the SACRS-sponsored legislative package in the Legislature's annual omnibus bill for technical changes to laws affecting CalSTRS, CalPERS, and the CERL systems. The proposed changes in the CERL include the following:
 - Clarifying that deferred members cannot run for or vote in active member Miscellaneous and Safety trustee elections.
 - Establishing a 10-year statute of limitations for recovery of overpayments due to fraudulent reports of overpaid death benefits.
 - Formalizing the practice of the majority of CERL systems that only the last system pays a lump-sum burial allowance for reciprocal members.
 - Defining "concurrent retirement" to allow reciprocal members to retire on different dates with 30 days of each retirement date, as long as there is not overlapping service.
 - Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee
 - Position: Support
 - **SB 1187 (Durazo)** – This bill would define "majority" in the Brown Act to mean the number of members of the legislative body equaling more than half of the total number of seats on the legislative body. The bill would specify that if a seat on the legislative body is vacant, that seat is to still be counted as a seat on the legislative body.



- Status: This bill has been referred to the Senate Local Government Committee
 - No position/watch
- **SB 1207 (Laird)** – This bill makes various changes to the CA Conversation Corps and would allow Cal PERS members to receive service credits for service as a Conservation Corps member, similar to service credits allowed for service in the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps.
 - Status: This bill is awaiting Committee referral
 - No position/watch
- **SB 1319 (Durazo)** – This bill expands requirements for public disclosure of alternative investment information, including a comparison of how the alternative investment performed versus what the public fund would have earned if it had invested the same amount in a comparable public market index, adjusted for factors like risk, liquidity, and expenses. The bill also requires disclosure of the identity of the enterprise or activity in which the investment is made, the geographic locations where the enterprise or activity takes place, and the number and classifications of employees at each such location.
 - Status: This bill is awaiting policy committee referral
 - Position: Pending
- **SB 1407 (Archuletta)** – Current law allows up to \$20,000 of federal military retirement pay and certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments to be excluded from taxable income for qualifying taxpayers between 2025 and 2030. This bill would remove the income limits and the \$20,000 cap, extend the exclusion through 2037, and require reporting on the tax expenditure.
 - Status: This bill will be heard in the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on 4/8.
 - Position: No position/watch

Contact:

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