

CLEAR ADVOCACY

CLEAR COMMENTARY December 10, 2020



And the 2021-22 Session Begins

The Legislative class of 2021 was sworn in on Monday for the 2021-22 Legislative Session.

In an only-in-2020-would-this-happen event, the 80-member Assembly was sworn in at the downtown Golden One Center (Home of the Sacramento Kings) to ensure social distancing.

The 40-member and more traditional Senate used the Senate chambers at the state capitol, but over half a dozen senators chose to be sworn in remotely. There were no family members, well-wishers, staff, lobbyists or after-hours receptions or bonhomie.

Get the keys to the office and split was the theme.

Of the 80 Assemblymembers and 40 State Senators, this is what is this legislature looks like:

- Assembly: 60 Democrats, 19 Republicans and 1 No Party Preference member.
- Senate: 30 Democrats, 9 Republicans and 1 vacant seat (state Sen. Holly Mitchell's for which there will be a special election after her successful run for LA Board of Supervisors)

- Assembly: 24 women and 56 men; compared to 14 women and 25 men in the Senate.
- Assembly: 39 white, 20 Latino, 12 Asian/Pacific Islander, 8 Black and 1 Native American member/s.
- Senate: 26 white, 10 Latino, 2 Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1 Black member/s.
- Leadership of both houses remains the same.

Legislators Legislate

Immediately upon being sworn in, the newly minted legislators did what legislators do: introduce bills.

On Day One of the session, Assemblymembers penned 96 bills and members of the Senate introduced 68 (for a grand total of 164). With the interrupted and condensed legislative year in 2020, many bills were left on the sidelines yielding a bumper crop of unhappy legislators. Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon acknowledged that if the pandemic leads to more unexpected disruptions of the schedule, it could mean legislators again “have to curtail our bill load.”

A reading of the already introduced bills reveals some retreads from 2020 and, of course, some new ones. Here are a handful of highlights:

AB 4 (Arambula) – Full scope Medi-Cal for all regardless of immigration status. **SB 52** Full scope Medi-Cal for those over 65 years old regardless of immigration status (a do over).

Unemployment Insurance is a hot topic considering the complete failure of EDD. [Bank of America says unemployment fraud in California could total \\$2 billion.](#) Multiple bills introduced already. **AB 8, AB 12, AB 19, AB 24, AB 42, AB 74.**

AB 20 (Lee) – Prohibit corporate giving in campaigns.

AB 25 (Kiley) – A repeal of AB 5 (a do over).

AB 32 (Aguiar Curry) – What is expected to be a wide- ranging telehealth bill.

AB 37 (Berman) – Full-time vote by mail. But wait, there’s also **AB 53 (Low)** – an election day paid holiday! Do we need a day off to vote by mail?

AB 62 (Gray) - Dollar for dollar tax credit for small businesses complying with costs of COVID-19.

AB 65 (Low) – Universal basic income for certain Californians.

AB 91 (Valladares) – Reduction of minimum franchise tax for all small businesses.

AB 95 (Low) – Bereavement leave (a do-over).

SB 5 (Atkins) – Housing bond for homelessness.

SB 54 (Allen) – Plastic recycling and content ban (a do over).

COVID Surges, Businesses Close, Schools Uncertain

We could rehash the lavish dinners out by officials who say don't gather for the holidays, but we don't want to do that. The same with the recent stay-at-home order, the Regions where ICU bed capacities are measured, what is opened and what is closed or operating at reduced capacity; all that has been well documented in the press and on CA's www.COVID-19.ca.gov website.

That said, many are at wits end after the virus has gone on for 8 months with seeming no end in sight.

Small businesses and restaurants feel picked-on and believe they have been singled out without merit. But the loudest and most vocal voice emerging are the parents of school aged children. Isolation and hands-on learning are hurting children's education. It could be years before the full effect of this "lost school year" is known. It will be interesting to see how the legislature reacts.

A vaccine is on the way. Distribution and how the tiers of first recipients is being finalized. California will have a finite number of doses and it will take months for the state to reach a safe-open level of vaccinated residents. From what we are told, at least 6 months to maybe a year. There will likely be bruising fights in the legislature over prioritizing who gets the vaccines.

We leave you this year with our thanks and feel truly blessed to be able to represent you.

Please contact us 24/7 if we can assist with any problem or need.



Clear Advocacy, 925 L Street, Suit 1450, Sacramento, CA 95184, United States