



August 2025 Legislative Advocate Report

Prepared by Jennifer Baker, CABE Legislative Advocate

November Special Election Declared

The Legislature passed, and the Governor signed a temporary redistricting overhaul last week, leading to the creation of a November 4, 2025 special election. Included in the package are:

ACA 8 (Rivas) creates the “Election Rigging Response Act,” which would amend the California constitution to utilize redrawn congressional districts, included in AB 604, for the 2026, 2028, and 2030 elections. These maps would solely become operative if Texas, Florida, or another state adopts new congressional district maps that take effect between 2025 and 2031.

SB 280 (Cervantes) creates the timelines and procedures to conduct a statewide special election for Proposition 50, as well as provides funding for the special election, which would take place on November 4th.

AB 604 (Aguiar-Curry) creates temporary congressional district maps, which would become operative should the voters pass ACA 8 and would remain in effect until new congressional district maps are certified by the Citizens Redistricting Commission following the national decennial census.

Legislature Resumes Session

The Legislature resumed the 2025-26 Legislative Session on August 15th with immediate hearings by both Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees. All bills must pass through both houses of the Legislature by September 12th. Bills that fail to pass by the final day of session will become two-year bills and will not be eligible to be taken up until the Legislature resumes business in January 2026.

LAO Updates the California Necessities Index

The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) has issued a report, “Updating the California Necessities Index,” which explains that the California Necessities Index (CNI), which measures changes in the cost of essential goods and services to adjust benefits in a number of state programs, can no longer be calculated as designed because the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has stopped publishing metropolitan-area data for the “household fuels and other utilities” category. This category makes up about seven percent of the CNI and has historically been volatile, influencing the index significantly.

The LAO examined four replacement approaches: removing the category entirely, redistributing its weight to a similar category, substituting national-level data for the missing category, or replacing the CNI with broader measures like the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers or for Wage and Clerical Workers. The analysis found that the first three options closely track historical CNI results, while the broader CPI measures diverge more significantly from the index's focus on necessities. The LAO concludes that substituting the missing category with national-level data best preserves the CNI's purpose, maintains historical similarity, and balances feasibility with conceptual fidelity. The LAO recommends that the Legislature adopt this change through statute in the 2026–27 budget process to ensure the CNI remains functional. It is not yet known whether the Legislature will act upon this recommendation.

Assembly Reviews Major Impacts of H.R. 1 on California

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 7 on Accountability and Oversight held an overview hearing on August 20th to review the impacts of H.R. 1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, on California. The Legislative Analyst's Office provided an overview that noted several critical areas impacting California. Under health care, the bill would curtail states' ability to tax Medicaid services for federal match funds, impose limits on provider payments, require able-bodied adults to engage in work or community service, and accelerate eligibility reviews for childless adults. In food assistance, CalFresh eligibility would narrow, states would shoulder more administrative costs, and a portion of benefit costs might shift to the state depending on error rates.

In higher education, the legislation would widen Pell Grant eligibility to include accredited short-term workforce training programs, introduce caps on both annual and aggregate federal student loans for graduate and other borrowers, merge existing repayment plans into two new ones, and launch an earnings-based accountability test for academic programs to maintain federal aid eligibility. On taxes, it would extend many Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions, introduce temporary deductions for seniors, overtime, tips, and auto-loan interest, expand the SALT deduction, and permanently preserve business incentives like bonus depreciation and full expensing for short-lived R&D investments. Lastly, in clean energy and electric vehicle sectors, the bill phases out a range of federal renewable energy, efficiency, and EV tax credits and rescinds unallocated Inflation Reduction Act funds for energy and natural resource programs.

As California may need to incur additional expenses to cover the fiscal and policy changes under H.R. 1, it may lead to reductions in funding for other programs or the elimination of various services, as cost-pressures created a need to reduce options previously provided at the federal level.

CABE-Supported Legislation

The following includes the status of CABE-supported bills:

AB 49 (Muratsuchi): Immigration Enforcement: Would prohibit local educational agency (LEA) school officials and employees from allowing an agency conducting immigration enforcement from entering a school site for any purpose without providing valid identification and a signed and valid judicial

warrant, a court order, or exigent circumstances necessitating immediate action. The measure further requires the LEA to limit access to school facilities, as prescribed by law. This measure is on the Senate Floor.

AB 243 (Ahrens): Student Financial Aid Dependency Status: Would require financial administrators of the California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California, or the Student Aid Commission, to accept a sworn statement signed under penalty of perjury by a representative of a LEA, county welfare department, or probation department as sufficient document for student aid. This measure is on the Senate Floor.

AB 419 (Connolly): Education Equity: Immigration Enforcement: Would require schools to post guidelines on educational rights related to immigration-enforcement actions in English and Spanish. CAFE is working with the author to amend the bill to ensure these materials would be translated into every language spoken at a school site, regardless of whether they have achieved 15 percent of the student population. This measure is on the Senate Floor.

AB 695 (Fong): California Community Colleges Access and Continuity for Deported Students: Would ensure community college students who have been involuntarily removed do not have to pay nonresident tuition. This important measure will assist students wishing to pursue higher education in continuing to pursue their goals. The measure is on the Senate Floor.

AB 833 (Alvarez): Teacher Exchange Program: Would require the State Board of Education's rules and regulations regarding teacher exchanges with Mexico to be reported to the Legislature, including the number of teachers participating, disaggregated by home country. The measure is on the Senate Floor.

AB 1348 (Bains): Average Daily Attendance: Immigration Enforcement Activity: Would protect school funding from declining due to immigration enforcement activities. The measure is on the Senate Floor.

AB 1454 (Rivas): Pupil Literacy: Administrative Services Credential Program Standards and Professional Development: Instructional Materials: Would support California's efforts to improve student literacy for all students through the strengthening of professional development, updating professional materials, and ensure training that incorporates evidence-based instructional strategies that will also support English Learners in language development and literacy. This measure is on the Senate Floor.

SB 48 (Gonzalez): Immigration Enforcement at School Sites: Would prohibit school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools and their personnel, from allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement to access a school campus without a judicial warrant. To the extent possible, SB 48 would require local education agencies and their personnel to document and have a witness present when denying such access. Additionally, the bill would prohibit LEAs and their personnel from disclosing or providing education records about a pupil, pupil's family, school employees, or teachers, without a judicial warrant. The measure has been held in the Assembly Judiciary Committee and is a two-year bill.

SB 98 (Pérez): Immigration Enforcement Notification: Would require school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and postsecondary educational entities to immediately notify all pupils, parents, faculty, staff, and other school community members of the presence of immigration officers on the school site. The measure is on the Assembly Floor.

Legislative Calendar

September 2-12 – Floor session only.

September 5 – Last day to amend a bill on the Floor.

September 12 – Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim Recess begins.

October 12 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills.

November 4 – Special Election.

January 1 – Statutes take effect.