



TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES
Sacramento Legislative Update
January 25, 2024



LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

January 31 Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in 2023.
February 16 Last day for new bills to be introduced.

BUDGET COMMITTEES HOLD FIRST HEARINGS

On Tuesday, the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee convened in separate hearings to discuss the budget proposal presented by Governor Newsom on January 10.

In contrast to previous years, Governor Newsom's budget proposal attempted to address a \$38 billion deficit. However, it is worth noting that this deficit may increase by the time the budget is approved, as the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has observed that tax collections currently fall short of the January target for revenue projections by \$3 billion to \$4 billion.

During the hearings, legislative members raised questions to Department of Finance employees and state analysts about specific budget cuts. The Democratic members of the committees concentrated their inquiries on funding reductions that directly impact housing, homelessness, and foster youth programs.

The Governor's Department of Finance acknowledged that some of the budget proposals would have adverse effects on Californians. These effects would be widespread, affecting programs for foster youth, nursing, housing, and homelessness. Committee members not only expressed concerns regarding proposed cuts but also questioned the allocation and utilization of budgeted funds.

Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva, a Democrat from Fullerton, raised doubts about the effectiveness of certain expenditures. She highlighted that over \$100 million had been allocated for a homeless encampment program, but it remained uncertain whether individuals were provided with housing after being removed from the encampments. Additionally, Quirk-Silva pointed out that \$1.5 billion was allotted for broadband expansion, although billions of dollars had already been spent on broadband in recent years. She questioned the necessity of this expenditure.

State Senator Steve Padilla, a Democrat from San Diego, defended local governments by arguing that cutting established programs impairs their ability to make long-term plans.

In the following weeks, budget subcommittees will convene to review specific budget proposals and provide the Legislature's input.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS CONTINUE

With three weeks remaining for members to introduce legislation, legislative offices are finalizing their bill lists for the year. Three bills of note this week are SB 937(Wiener), AB 1820 (Schiavo) and CalCities co-sponsored SB 915 (Cortese):

[SB 937 \(Wiener\) Development projects: permits and other entitlements: fees and charges.](#) This bill would defer cities' collection of development fees until the certificate of occupancy is issued on a housing project. The bill would not allow a city to charge interest rates on any of the deferred fees. Additionally, the bill would extend by 18 months a housing entitlement that was issued before January 1, 2024, and that will expire before December 31, 2025. The goal of the bill is "to provide developers with flexibility to navigate challenging market conditions, while protecting a key source of revenue for local governments."

[AB 1820 \(Schiavo\) Housing development projects: applications: fees and exactions](#) is a bill that would allow developers to request a fee and exaction statement estimate from their local jurisdiction at the time the preliminary application is submitted. The local jurisdiction would have 10 days to comply with the request unless the application is not complete.

[SB 915 \(Cortese\) Local government: autonomous vehicles.](#) This bill allows local governments to consider adequate safeguards that promote community safety, such as reasonable vehicle caps, data transparency rules, and interactions with emergency responders, as well as regulate maximum fare rates, ensure ADA accessibility, and perform annual inspections for health and safety. The measure, co-sponsored by CalCities and backed by labor advocates and local government groups, is modeled after the existing statute that allows local governments to pass ordinances regulating taxicabs.

All three bills are newly introduced and have yet to be referred to legislative policy committees.

Finally, while numerous proposals focus on public safety, homelessness, and labor concerns, not all legislation tackles such significant matters. There are a few newly introduced bills, which are not included in your weekly legislative reports, that have garnered media attention this week. These include [AB 734 \(McCarty\)](#), a bill banning youth tackle football [that the Governor has quickly pledged to veto](#), [SB 961 \(Wiener\)](#), a bill mandating technology in California vehicles to prevent them from exceeding the legal speed limit by more than 10 mph, and bills designating the Banana Slug as the state slug, [AB 1850 \(Pellerin\)](#), and [AB 1797 \(Wood\)](#) that would designate the Dungeness Crab as the state crustacean.