September 13, 2019

To: Members, California Fire Chiefs Association
    Members, Fire Districts Association of California

From: Russell Noack, Public Policy Advocates

Re: FIRE Legislative Report – Week Ending September 13, 2019

Governor Appointment

Today, Governor Newsom appointment David R. Duncan Jr., 58, of Penryn, as director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority. Duncan has been medical director and executive medical officer at Air Medical Group Holdings and REACH Air Medical Services since 2008. He served as medical director at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 2010 to 2019. Duncan has served as a staff emergency physician at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Mather since 2016. He was a staff emergency physician at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital from 1995 to 2015, at Mercy San Juan Hospital from 1996 to 1999 and at the University of California, Davis Medical Center from 1994 to 1996. He is a member of the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine, American College of Emergency Physicians and American Medical Association. He earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and completed emergency medicine training at the University of California, Davis Medical Center. This position does not require Senate confirmation.

Legislative Update

Today is the final day of the first year of the two-year Legislative Session. Many bills will not be taken up until late tonight and will be reported on next week. The following measures passed the Legislature this week and are on their way to Governor Newsom’s desk:

Assembly Bill 1705 (Bonta) – Our sponsored bill to create an intergovernmental transfer program for public Medi-Cal transport providers passed the Senate on a 40-0 vote, and the Senate amendments were concurred in by the Assembly on a 79-0 vote.
Assembly Bill 338 (Chu) would require all used mobile homes that are sold or rented to have a smoke alarm and would require mobile home park owners to make emergency plans available and updated annually. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 394 (Obernolte) would provide a temporary CEQA exemption for CAL FIRE-approved egress route projects. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 651 (Grayson) would increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for emergency air ambulance providers. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 911 (Rodriguez) would have Cal OES develop a plan to allow citizens to voluntarily provide health and safety information that would be provided to first responders to assist in EMS calls. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1079 (Santiago) would allow public agencies to test systems that respond to 9-1-1 calls or communicate threats to life on unlisted telephone numbers without first obtaining the subscribers written consent. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1116 (Grayson) would establish a Firefighter Peer Support and Crisis Referral Pilot Program to enable confidential support and crisis services for emergency service personnel. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1483 (Grayson) would provide for transparency in local government dissemination of public information pertaining to zoning ordinances, development standards, impact fees, exactions and affordability requirements. *FIRE POSITION: WATCH.*

Assembly Bill 1513 (Holden) is a clean-up measure to provide that upon the termination of the Wildfire Fund established by the enactment of AB 1054 (Holden) earlier this year, and remaining funds would be transferred to the State’s General Fund to be used for wildfire mitigation activities. *FIRE POSITION: WATCH.*

Assembly Bill 1516 (Freidman) would promote activities to encourage defensible space and vegetation management to improve fire safety in very high fire hazard severity zones. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1699 (Levine) would prohibit a mobile internet provider from impairing or degrading traffic for public safety clients during a state of emergency. *FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.*

Assembly Bill 1823 (Committee on Natural Resources) is a clean-up of Senate Bill 901 (Dodd) of last year to provide that the Forestry Management task Force will oversee the implementation of
Executive Order B-52-18 pertaining to vegetation management, fuel reduction activities and conservation easement projects. **FIRE POSITION: WATCH.**

**Senate Bill 190 (Dodd)** would require the State Fire Marshal to develop a Model Defensible Space Program and a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Safety Building Standards Compliance Training Manual for use by local government. **FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.**

**Senate Bill 209 (Dodd)** would establish the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center to monitor fire-weather conditions and to assess threats to enhance fire forecasting. **FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.**

**Senate Bill 247 (Dodd)** would require CAL FIRE to audit vegetation management wildfire mitigation programs deployed by electrical corporations. **FIRE POSITION: WATCH.**

**Senate Bill 268 (Wiener)** permits proponents of local initiative measures, or a local government submitting a ballot measure that imposes a tax with more than one rate, or authorize issuance of bonds, to place explanatory language in the voter guide rather than on the ballot. **FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.**

**Senate Bill 542 (Stern)** would create a rebuttable presumption for specified peace officer and firefighters that a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder is occupational and thereby covered under the workers’ compensation system. **FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.**

**Senate Bill 560 (McGuire)** would require electrical companies to establish procedures for notifying customers including first responders, who may be impacted by the deenergizing of electrical lines. **FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.**

**Senate Bill 670 (McGuire)** would require telecommunications companies to submit an outage notice plan to Cal OES and local agencies whenever a community power outage occurs that limits the public from making 9-1-1 calls or receiving emergency notifications. **FIRE POSITION: SUPPORT.**

The following list of bills will be held in the Legislature, but will be eligible to be taken up again in 2020:

**Assembly Bill 1298 (Mullin)** has been amended to provide a vehicle for placing a bond act onto the 2020 Ballot. It is now the Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Job Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020. **FIRE POSITION: WATCH.**
Assembly Bill 1366 (Daly) would have extended an existing sunset date to prevent the CPUC from regulating voiceover internet protocol enabled services effecting the 9-1-1 system without enactment of legislation. *FIRE POSITION: WATCH.*

Assembly Bill 1484 (Grayson) has been amended to establish requirements on local government prior to imposing developer impact fees under the Mitigation Fee Act. *FIRE POSITION: WATCH.*

A complete bill tracking report of all the end-of-session actions will be sent next week when the computers catch up with the late-night legislative activities.