February 21, 2020

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

From: Russell Noack, Public Policy Advocates

Re: FIRE Legislative Report – Week Ending February 21, 2020

Governor Newsom’s “State of the State” focused solely on California’s accelerating homelessness crisis. We expect a significant amount of legislative attention on the issue as well as finding affordable housing options throughout the 2020 session.

Legislative Update

Today, February 21, is the legislative deadline to introduce legislation. More than 50% of those introductions will be in the next 2 days. Those measures will be discussed in the next report.

Legislation introduced this week included:

- **Assembly Bill 2356 (Bauer-Kahan)** would authorize the Attorney General or local District Attorney to bring an action against an electrical corporation that fails to comply with PUC safety standards or requirements.

- **Assembly Bill 2367 (L. Gonzalez)** would create a Wildfire Resilience Task Force to establish minimum standards for fire-hardened homes and communities. The bill would also require admitted insurance companies that sell residential property insurance to accept the criteria in establishing underwriting guidelines.

- **Assembly Bill 2386 (Bigelow)** would require Cal OES to select 10 local emergency plans for annual audits and prioritize plans from a county determined to be at a high risk of wildfire disaster.

- **Assembly Bill 2428 (Fong)** would require Cal OES to work with the functional needs population and update the State Emergency Plan.
Assembly Bill 2447 (Rodriguez) is an emergency medical service spot bill.

Assembly Bill 2450 (Grayson) is an air ambulance provider spot bill.

Assembly Bill 2452 (C. Garcia) is a follow-up to the author’s AB 315, which failed early this year. This narrower bill would authorize the State Auditor to audit local agencies or district associations if they are identified as being at high risk for waste, fraud or abuse.

Assembly Bill 2475 (Flora) would require the state’s largest utility corporations, as part of their wildfire mitigation plan, to include monitoring equipment on distribution lines in targeted high fire-threat areas.

Assembly Bill 2504 (Nazarian) is an intent bill to encourage seismic safety retrofitting of buildings and homes.

Assembly Bill 2531 (Quirk) would establish a Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) fire inspection program.

Senate Bill 1044 (Allen) would require sellers of firefighter protective equipment to provide a written notice if the equipment contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances.

Senate Bill 1069 (Jackson) would require telecommunication service providers to provide increased notifications and emergency management reports upon declaration of an emergency or natural disaster.

-o-0-o-