February 18, 2022

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

From: Russell Noack and Julee Malinowski Ball
    Public Policy Advocates, LLC

Re: FIRE Legislative Report – Week Ending 02/18/2022

Legislative Update

With the deadline for introduction of new bills looming at 5:00 p.m. today, 2/18/2022, most will not come into print until tomorrow. However, please see a large selection of measures that were dropped into the process earlier this week:

Assembly Bill 1993 (Wicks) - Employer would require all employees and independent contractors who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, to show proof that the person has been vaccinated.

Assembly Bill 2070 (Bauer-Kahan) would require an electrical corporation to notify a fire protection district at least 24 hours before performing work including the initiation of a deenergization event.

Assembly Bill 2093 (Mathis) would require the Department of Justice, upon appropriation, to establish an educational loan repayment program for first responders serving in disadvantaged communities.

Assembly Bill 2252 (Aguiar-Curry) – Following a state or local disaster for which the Governor has issued a declaration of emergency, the PUC would be required to collect information from broadband service providers relating to their efforts to restore, repair or replace broadband infrastructure damaged as a result of the disaster.

Assembly Bill 2258 (Wood) and Senate Bill 1264 (Dahle) would authorize a public program to enter
into voluntary contractual arrangements with property owners to finance the installation of wildfire safety improvements that are permanently fixed to their property and provide wildfire resiliency and safety improvements and contribute to improved defensible space even if not fixed to the property.

Assembly Bill 2267 (Mathis) would expand the existing law that exempts from vehicle registration those privately owned vehicles capable of being used for firefighting purposes when responding to a fire to include non-fire emergency calls and private ambulances.

Assembly Bill 2283 (Gallagher) would state legislative intent to enact legislation to ensure the Fire Victim Trust is fully funded and victims of wildfire are fairly compensated for damages caused by the wildfire.

Assembly Bill 2377 (Muratsuchi) would establish within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection a Chief of Wildfire Prevention to be appointed by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 2387 (E. Garcia) would enact, if approved by the voters, a $7.4 billion bond to support projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection and workforce development programs.

Assembly Bill 2440 (Irwin) and Senate Bill 1251 (Newman) would enact the battery and battery-embedded product recycling and fire risk reduction act and prohibit persons from knowingly disposing of lithium-ion batteries in containers for collection of solid waste or recyclable materials unless the container is designated for the collection of batteries.

Assembly Bill 2477 (Rodriguez) would establish a Local Emergency Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation, and Mutual Aid Fund to support staffing, planning, emergency mitigation policies and enhance mutual aid to help local governments meet emergency management, preparedness, readiness and resilience goals.

Assembly Bill 2479 (Wood) would require all state agencies, when funding forest restoration efforts to prioritize projects that have a permanent, enforceable mechanism to ensure that the project area will be managed in a manner to meet the desired goals.

Assembly Bill 2538 (R. Rivas) would expand the State Warning Center to include targeted alerts for public health dangers, including smoke from wildfires.

Assembly Bill 2563 (Quirk) would require air pollution control and air quality management districts to establish a mobile fueling on-demand tank vehicle uniform permit program.

Senate Bill 1022 (Archuleta) would authorize a “certifying examination” or “examination certification” to include any examination designated by Cal EMSA.

Senate Bill 1062 (McGuire) – Known as the Fixing the Firefighter Shortage Act of 2022, the bill would require CAL FIRE to maintain a standard minimum level of staffing per engine of three, increase its existing firefighter fuel crews and provide the Legislature with a long-term staffing plan to meet the
new era of wildfire firefighting.

Senate Bill 1235 (Borgeas) would codify the State Air Resources Board’s regulation authorizing portable equipment to be operated during an emergency event and during planned public safety power shut-off events.

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8 (Nielsen) – Contingent upon approval by the voters, this constitutional amendment would revise and recast the recently passed California Fire Response Fund and Special District Fire Response Fund to require the Treasurer to annually transfer an amount equal to 1% of specified state revenues from the General Fund to these funds.

Online Information for Legislative Measures

If you would like to find information on a legislative bill, please use this link.

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