



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE**  
1020 N Street, Room 513, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone (916) 552-8056 Fax (916) 552-8013  
www.4csl.org

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
**Revised: September 30, 2007**

**AB 311            Dymally            Hearing Aid Availability & Cost**

Existing law requires hearing aids will be dispensed by a licensed hearing aid dispenser. It also regulates the labeling and conditions for sale of hearing aid devices. This bill would authorize the sale of over-the-counter hearing aid devices by an unlicensed person if such sales are authorized under federal law.

**STATUS:** Held in Committee

CSL Position: Sponsor            CSL Proposal #AP-14            CSL Author: Lucero

**AB 351            Smyth            Property Tax Exemptions**

Existing law provides for a homeowners' exemption in the amount of \$7,000 and reduces the amount of this exemption to the lesser of \$5,600 or 80 percent of the full value of the dwelling if a claimant does not claim the exemption before a specified date. This bill would increase the homeowners' exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for assesses who are 62 years of age or older and allow an exemption of the lesser of \$21,600 or 80 percent of the full value of the dwelling if the claimant does not claim the exemption before a specified date.

**STATUS:** Suspense File

CSL Position: Sponsor            CSL Proposal #SP-4            CSL Author: Griswold  
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association - Support  
Three individuals - Support  
California State Employees Association - Oppose  
California Tax Reform Association - Oppose

**AB 459            Cook            IHSS Criminal Background Checks**

Existing law permits services to be provided under the IHSS program either through the employment of individual providers, a contract between the county and an entity for the provision of services, the creation by the county of a public authority, or a contract between the county and a nonprofit consortium. This bill would authorize the investigation of certain

potential personnel by a nonprofit consortium or public authority to include criminal background checks conducted by the Department of Justice or by an investigative consumer-reporting agency. The bill would authorize a fee to be charged the provider to cover any cost.

**STATUS:** Hearing canceled at the request of the Author

CSL Position: Sponsor          CSL Proposal #SP-2          CSL Author: Fromm  
American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees - Oppose  
Aging Services of California - Oppose  
California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (unless amended) - Oppose  
SEIU Local 6434-ULTCW - Oppose  
Service Employees International Union CA State Council - Oppose  
United Domestic Workers of America - Oppose

**AB 966          Krekorian          Driver's license renewal: senior citizens**

Existing law allows a person 62 years of age or older to be issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, free of a charge, an identification card bearing the notation "Senior Citizen." This bill would require the department to include with a notice of renewal of a driver's license that is mailed to a person who is 62 years of age or older, an informational statement that the person may be issued, free of charge, an identification card bearing the notation "Senior Citizen."

**STATUS:** Enrolled and to the Governor

CSL Position: Sponsor          CSL Proposal #SP-3          CSL Author: Goldman

**AB 1142          Salas          Nursing Home End-of-Life Privacy**

Existing law imposes specified requirements upon skilled nursing facilities with regard to, among other things, its patients, staffing ratios, and the medical services provided by those facilities. This bill would permit the administrator of a freestanding skilled nursing facility, upon notification to the administrator that a resident of the facility is dying, or will soon begin the process of dying, to work with the resident and the resident's interdisciplinary care team to determine if moving the resident to a private room in the facility is appropriate.

**STATUS:** To Enrollment and to the Governor

CSL Position: Oppose          CSL Proposal #AP-25          CSL Author: L.Young  
Aging Services of California (prior version) - Oppose  
Crestwood Behavioral Health (prior version) - Oppose



either through the employment of individual providers, a contract between the county and an entity for the provision of services, the creation by the county of a public authority, or a contract between the county and a nonprofit consortium. Under existing law, the functions of a nonprofit consortium contracting with the county to operate the program, or a public authority established for this purpose, include investigating the qualifications and background of potential personnel.

This bill would authorize the investigation by a nonprofit consortium or public authority *of a person who is unlicensed and provides or applies to provide nonmedical domestic or personal care services for an aged or disabled adult who is not otherwise eligible for IHSS program services, for specified reasons, through a criminal background check* conducted by the Department of Justice. The bill would authorize a nonprofit consortium or a public authority *costs* related to administering these provisions.

**STATUS:** To Assembly Third Reading

CSL Position: Sponsor

CSL Proposal #SP-2

CSL Author: Fromm

**SB 977                  Correa                  Senior Facility Infrastructure Upgrades**

Under existing law, various bond acts have been approved by the voters of the state to provide funds for specified infrastructure and public works projects, programs, and facilities relating to transportation, housing, and disaster relief. This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require the preparation of a statewide study to determine the current and future infrastructure needs created by increases in the numbers of elderly persons in the state.

**STATUS:** Held in Rules Committee

CSL Position: Sponsor

CSL Proposal #AP-19

CSL Author: Trotter

**SJR 12                  Simitian                  Elder abuse awareness stamp**

This measure would request the President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would authorize the United States Postmaster General to establish a special rate of postage for first-class mail, and to issue a special postage stamp, to provide funds for elder abuse prevention and awareness programs.

**STATUS:** To Committee on Aging and Long Term Care

CSL Position: Sponsor

**ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO OLDER CALIFORNIANS  
CSL IS SUPPORTING AND/OR TRACKING**

**AB 267            Calderon            Annuity Sales: Seniors**

Existing law requires a life insurance agent to provide specified disclosures to seniors 65 years of age or older in certain circumstances. Existing law also prohibits the sale of an annuity to a senior in specified circumstances. This bill would require the insurance producer agent or insurer, when making a recommendation to a senior consumer, as defined, for the purchase or exchange of an annuity to have reasonable grounds for believing that the recommendation is suitable for the senior based on the facts disclosed by the senior relating to his or her financial situation and needs.

This bill would further provide that before the purchase or exchange of an annuity that the insurance producer or insurer shall make reasonable efforts to obtain specified information to assist in making recommendations to the senior consumer. If a senior consumer refuses or fails to provide all specified relevant information, the insurance producer or insurer recommendation must be reasonable under all circumstances that were known at the time.

**STATUS:** Hearing canceled at request of author, 4/11/2007

CSL Position: Oppose

**AB 399            Feuer/Berg            Long Term Health Care Facilities  
                         De Leon/Hernandez**

Existing law establishes procedures to be followed when the department receives a written or oral complaint about a long-term health care facility. This bill would require the department to complete its investigation of the complaint within 40 working days of its receipt, except that this period may be extended if the department has diligently attempted, but has not been able to obtain, necessary evidence related to the investigation. The bill would require the department, if it extends an investigation beyond 40 working days, to notify the complainant, in writing, of the basis for the extension.

**STATUS:** To Enrollment

CSL Position: Support

Bet Tzedek Legal Services (cosponsor) - Support

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (cosponsor) - Support

Alzheimer's Association - Support

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Support

AFL-CIO - Support

California Alliance for Retired Americans - Support

California State Association of Counties - Support

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles - Support

National Senior Citizens Law Center - Support  
Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, Inc. - Support  
WISE Senior Services - Support  
12 individuals - Support

**AB 495                      Tran                      Taxation: Homeowners' property tax**

Existing property tax law provides, pursuant to the authority of a specified provision of the California Constitution, for a homeowners' exemption in the amount of \$7,000 of the full value of a "dwelling," as defined, and authorizes the Legislature to increase this exemption. This bill would, beginning with the lien date for the 2008–09 fiscal year, increase the homeowners' exemption from \$7,000 to \$25,000 of the full value of a dwelling for assesses who are 62 years of age or older. This bill also would also require the assessor to adjust this amount for inflation for subsequent fiscal years.

The California Constitution requires the Legislature, whenever it increases the homeowners' property tax exemption, to provide a comparable increase in benefits to qualified renters. The Personal Income Tax Law authorizes various credits against the taxes imposed by that law, including a credit for qualified renters in the amount of \$120 for married couples filing joint returns, heads of household, and surviving spouses if adjusted gross income is \$50,000 or less, and in the amount of \$60 for other individuals if adjusted gross income is \$25,000 or less. Existing law requires the Franchise Tax Board to annually adjust for inflation these adjusted gross income amounts.

This bill would, for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2008, increase this credit for qualified renters who are 62 years of age or older. This bill would increase the credit amount for those renters to \$360 for married couples filing joint returns, heads of household, and surviving spouses if adjusted gross income is \$50,000 or less, as adjusted for inflation, and to \$180 for other individuals if adjusted gross income is \$25,000 or less, as adjusted for inflation.

**STATUS:** In Revenue & Taxation Committee – held under submission

CSL Position: Support  
Bill Leonard, Member, State Board of Equalization - Support  
Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association - Support  
California School Employees Association, AFL-CIO - Oppose  
California Tax Reform Association - Oppose  
CDF Firefighters - Oppose

**AB 853                      Jones/Berg                      The Home Care Services Act of 2007**  
**Salas**

Existing law provides for the licensing and regulation of various community care facilities by the State Department of Social Services. This bill would enact the Home Care Services Act of 2007 and would provide for the licensure and regulation of home care

organizations, as defined, by the State Department of Social Services. The bill would impose various licensure requirements on a home care organization and would also impose a civil penalty on an individual or entity that operates a home care organization without a license. The bill would require a home care organization to inform a client of certain things before arranging for the provision of home care services, as defined, to that client, including, but not limited to, the types and hours of available home care services and the extent to which payment may be expected from specified sources. In addition, the home care organization would be required to, among other things, distribute to the client its advance directive policy and provide a written notice to the client of certain rights. The bill would also prohibit a home care organization from hiring an individual as a home care aide unless that individual meets certain requirements, including, but not limited to, demonstrating that he or she has specified language skills. The bill would require a home care organization to conduct background clearances on home care aides, as specified, and to require home care aides to demonstrate they are free of active tuberculosis. The bill would also require a home care organization to conduct regular evaluations of its home care aides, as specified, and to ensure that home care aides demonstrate basic competency in certain areas. The bill would establish the Home Care Organization Fund, would authorize the department to impose various fees to be deposited in that fund, and would make a continuous appropriation from that fund to the department to carry out the provisions of the bill.

**STATUS:** Set, second hearing. Held under submission

CSL Position: Support

California Association for Health Services at Home (CAHSA) - sponsor

Aristo Care - Support

A Servant's Heart Senior Care - Support

Accent Care (8 individuals) - Support

Alzheimer's Association - Support

Antelope Valley Home Care - Support

California Alliance for Retired Americans - Support

California Caregiver Resource Centers - Support

Catholic Healthcare West - Support

Companion Care Incorporated - Support

Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging - Support

Elements in Harmony - Support

Gray Panthers California - Support

Home Instead Senior Care - Support

Interim Health Care - Support

Long Term Financial Partners

Matched CareGivers Continuous Care - Support

Maxim Healthcare Services - Support

Pioneer Home Health Care - Support

Right at Home In Home Care & Assistance - Support

SoCAL Home Care-Giver Services - Support

South Coast Medical Center - Support

St, Joseph Home Health Network - Support

The Accredited Family of Home Care Services - Support

USCF, Professor Charlene Harrington, Ph.D, RN - Support  
VITAS Innovative Hospice Care - Support  
Waddell & Reed Advisors, Inc. - Support  
WISE Senior Services - Support  
31 individuals - Support

**AB 927                      Saldana                      Multifamily housing program**

Existing law establishes the Multifamily Housing Program under the administration of the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide a standardized set of program rules and features applicable to all housing types based on the department's California Housing Rehabilitation Program. This bill would require a portion of the assistance provided to a project under the Multifamily Housing Program to be expended for senior rental housing developments in the same proportion as the number of lower income elderly renter households in the state bears to the total number of lower income renter households in the state, as reported by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development on the basis of the most recent decennial census conducted by the United States Census Bureau.

**STATUS:** To Enrollment

CSL Position: Support  
Aging Services of California (co-sponsor) - Support  
California American Association of Retired Persons (co-sponsor) - Support  
California Commission on Aging (co-sponsor) - Support  
Congress of California Seniors (co-sponsor) - Support  
Housing California (co-sponsor) - Support  
Retirement Housing Foundation (Long Beach) - Support  
San Diego Housing Federation - Support

**AB 949                      Krekorian                      Residential care facilities for the elderly: resident transfers**

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of residential care facilities for the elderly, as defined, by the State Department of Social Services. Under existing law, a violation of any of these provisions is punishable as a misdemeanor. This bill would require a licensed residential care facility for the elderly, prior to transferring a resident to another facility or to an independent living arrangement as a result of the forfeiture of a license, or a change in the use of the facility pursuant to an eviction by the department, to take all reasonable steps to transfer affected residents safely, and minimize possible trauma by taking specified actions relating to resident notification and transfer and relocation planning, as prescribed. The bill would require a facility, if 7 or more residents of the facility will be transferred as a result of the forfeiture of a license or the change of use of a facility, to submit a proposed relocation plan for the affected residents to the department for review, and would require the department to approve, or disapprove the plan.

**STATUS:** Enrolled and to the Governor

CSL Position: Support

**AB 1324          De La Torre          Health Care Coverage: rescinded coverage**

Existing law provides for regulation of health care service plans the Director *of the Department of Managed Health Care*. Existing provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Insurance Commissioner. Existing law provides that a health care service plan or a health insurer that authorizes a specific type of treatment by a health care provider shall not rescind or modify this authorization after the provider renders the health care service in good faith and pursuant to the authorization. This bill would define “authorizes” and “authorization” under these provisions.

Existing law provides that the falsity of a statement in a life or disability insurance policy application shall not bar the right to recovery under the policy unless the false statement was made either with actual intent to deceive or it materially affected the acceptance of the risk or hazard assumed by the insurer. This bill would require both of these conditions in order for falsity of a statement in the application to bar the right to recovery under the policy.

**STATUS:** To Enrollment and to the Governor

CSL Position: Watch

**AB 1424          Davis          Elder Abuse**

Existing law provides that violation of specified restraining or stay-away orders constitute a contempt of court, and are punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or both imprisonment and that fine. This bill would add to these provisions, orders relative to criminal proceedings involving elder abuse, as specified. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

**STATUS:** Read Second Time, Amended, and Re-referred to Senate Public Safety Committee

CSL Position: Support

Bet Tzedek - Support

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence - Support

California District Attorneys Association - Support  
Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center - Support  
Office of the City Attorney, City of Los Angeles - Support

**AB 1526            Lieber            Housing for elderly or disabled persons**

Existing law exempts certain facilities for elderly or disabled persons that are approved and operated pursuant to prescribed provisions of federal law from licensing requirements applicable to community care facilities, residential care facilities for persons with life-threatening illness, and residential care facilities for the elderly. This bill would instead exempt those facilities occupied by elderly or disabled persons from these provisions, and would also exempt facilities that are approved or operated under provisions of the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 and the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

**STATUS:** Joint Rule 61(a)(12) Suspended

CSL Position: Withdraw Support  
Aging Services of California - Support  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Support

**AB 1554            Jones            Health care coverage: rate approval.**

This bill would, *subject to specified exceptions*, require approval by the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance of an increase in the amount of the premium, copayment, coinsurance obligation, deductible, and other charges under a health care service plan or disability insurance policy. The bill would require a plan or insurer to submit to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, respectively, an application for a rate increase that would be effective on or after January 1, 2009, and would require review of the application in accordance with regulations that each department would be required to adopt no later than January 1, 2009. The bill would subject a rate increase that became effective January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2008, inclusive, to review by the appropriate department.

**STATUS:** Failed passage, Reconsideration granted

CSL Position: Support  
California Church IMPACT - Support  
California Federation of Teachers - Support  
California Public Interest Research Group - Support  
California Society for Clinical Social Work - Support  
Consumer Federation of California - Support  
Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights - Support

America's Health Insurance Plans - Oppose  
Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies - Oppose  
Blue Cross of California - Oppose

California Association of Dental Plans - Oppose  
California Association of Health Plans - Oppose  
California Association of Health Underwriters - Oppose  
California Association of Joint Powers Authorities - Oppose  
California Chamber of Commerce - Oppose  
Health Net - Oppose  
Kaiser Permanente - Oppose  
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of California - Oppose

**AB 1558            Soto            Community care facilities: licenses information systems**

Existing law, the California Community Care Facilities Act, requires the State Department of Social Services, in part, to license, regulate, and assess fees upon community care facilities, as defined. Existing law authorizes the director to establish an automated licenses information system containing prescribed information about licensees and former licensees. This bill would require that the director maintain and update the system, and would authorize inclusion of additional information, including, but not limited to, administrative or court actions against any licensees, staffing information, and information regarding client characteristics.

The bill would require that the department make public information contained in the system available to the public by prescribed dates depending on the type of care facility and the format of the data, and would require the department to report to the Legislature annually commencing in July 2008.

**STATUS:** Hearing canceled at request of author

CSL Position: Watch

**SB 489            Steinberg            Continuing care contracts: retirement communities: closure**

Existing law contains provisions relating to supervision of life care contracts, also known as continuing care contracts, including requirements governing continuing care communities and contracts. Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to regulate activity relating to continuing care contracts, and requires that continuing care retirement communities maintain an environment that enhances residents' independence and self-determination and in that regard imposes various requirements on a care provider. Existing law defines various terms for purposes of those contracts and requirements, and imposes specified civil and criminal penalties for violations of those provisions.

This bill would define the term "closure," for purposes of those provisions, to mean *events that will cause the relocation of residents, including the voluntary or involuntary termination of a provider's certificate of authority or license to operate any portion of a*

continuing care retirement community facility, *a closure of a portion of the facility that requires approval by the department*, or any other change in the status of the operation of a facility resulting in the facility's inability to meet the material terms of one or more continuing care contracts.

This bill would impose various requirements on a provider with respect to the closure of a continuing care retirement community facility, or a portion thereof, as specified, including providing 120 180 days' written notice to the department, and affected residents or legal guardians *designated representatives* of these residents of the intended date of closure of a facility. The bill would require a provider, no less than 90 120 days prior to the closure of a continuing care retirement community facility, or a portion thereof, to provide the department with a written closure and relocation plan for the facility, containing specified information. The bill would require the department to monitor the implementation of the closure and relocation plan, as necessary, to ensure full compliance by the provider, and would prohibit a provider from taking any action to displace a resident, until the department has reviewed and approved the plan. *The bill would also require the provider to offer the resident the choice of placement options or a buy-out lump sum option in cases where comparable replacement housing and care are not available.*

**STATUS:** Placed on Assembly Inactive File

CSL Position: Support

**SB 491                      Alquist                      The New Older Californians Act**

This bill seeks to expand the capacity of the Department of Aging to address anticipated demands for services by the aging of the state's population and to assure integration of various senior services. SB 491 appropriates \$5,475,000 to enhance a variety of senior programs and mentions submission of a bond to the people for development of senior housing. The bill would direct the state's data center to develop a comprehensive data base on older Californians for improved service delivery (\$1 m); expand mental health services (\$3 m); establish an office for senior advocacy in the Commission on Aging (\$1.75 m); directs the data center to develop a system to prevent adverse drug actions (\$1 m); provides for local incentives for home modifications and improvements; seeks an assessment of geriatric training; seeks review of the state's aging programs, improved gerontology education, review of local transit plans, creates an office for volunteerism and other aging related services.

**STATUS:** Held in Appropriations Committee and under submission

CSL Position: Watch

**SB 535**                    **Kuehl/  
Alquist**                    **Long Term Health Care Facilities**

Existing law requires the State Department of Health Services to develop and establish a consumer information service system to provide information to the general public and consumers regarding long-term health care facilities in their communities. Effective July 1, 2007, these duties are transferred to the State Department of Public Health. This bill would revise information to be provided and how that information is made available to the general public and consumers.

**STATUS:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Suspense File, 7/11/07

CSL Position: Watch

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (sponsor) - Support

Bet Tzedek Legal Services - Support

California Alliance for Consumer Protection - Support

California Alliance for Retired Americans - Support

Consumer Attorneys of California - Support

Corporon Law Office - Support

Law Offices of Sandra D. Sickler - Support

Legal Services for Prisoners With Children - Support

Napa Long Term Care Ombudsman - Support

Older Women's League of California - Support

Ombudsman and HICAP Services of Northern California - Support

Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, Inc. - Support

San Diego Elder Law Center - Support

Torii and Awakuni, LLP - Support

Six individuals - Support

**SB 573**                    **Scott/Kuehl**                    **Annuity Sales: Seniors**  
**Romero**

Existing law generally regulates insurance, including annuity products. Existing law requires a life insurance agent to provide specified disclosures to seniors 65 years of age or older in certain circumstances. Existing law also prohibits the sale of an annuity to a senior in specified circumstances.

This bill would require the life insurance agent or insurer, when making a recommendation to a senior consumer, as defined, for the purchase or exchange of an annuity to have reasonable grounds for believing that the recommendation is suitable for the senior based on the facts disclosed by the senior relating to his or her financial situation and needs. The bill would provide that the insurer shall not issue or maintain in force an annuity it determines was recommended without reasonable grounds, *and shall offer to rescind the contract if it is informed by a regulatory agency that it was recommended without reasonable grounds.*

This bill would further provide that before the purchase or exchange of an annuity that the life agent or insurer shall make reasonable efforts to obtain specified information to assist in making recommendations to the senior consumer. If a senior consumer refuses or fails to provide all specified relevant information, the life agent or insurer recommendation must be reasonable under all circumstances that were known at the time.

This bill would also require insurers to establish a system, as specified, to supervise compliance with the placement of annuities to senior consumers. Insurers would be allowed to *contract* with a 3rd party to establish a system of supervision to ensure compliance by life agents, as specified. This bill would, with respect to the Insurance Commissioner, specify his or her authority to order life agents and insurers to protect the senior consumer, as specified.

This bill would require insurers, managing general agents, independent agencies, and life agents to maintain, and make available to the commissioner, records of the information collected and other information used in making suitability recommendations, for 5 years. An insurer would be permitted to maintain other records used to determine suitability.

**STATUS:** Held in Assembly Insurance Committee

CSL Position: Support

Support

Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council (San Luis Obispo & Santa Barbara counties)

Congress of California Seniors

Gray Panthers

California Labor Federation

Lieutenant Governor Garamendi

Wordell Law Group

California Alliance for Retired Americans

California State Bar, Trusts and Estates Section

Support if Amended

Department of Insurance

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

Council on Aging Silicon Valley

County Welfare Directors Association

Oppose Unless Amended

Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies

American Council of Life Insurers

National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors

California Association of Health Underwriters

American International Group

Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company

Oppose

Pacific Life Insurance Company

**SB 611                      Steinberg                      Financial abuse of elder and dependent adults**

Existing law provides for the award of attorney's fees and costs, and damages to a plaintiff when it is proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is liable for financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult and permits additional recovery where there is clear and convincing evidence of recklessness, oppression, fraud, or malice. Under the Attachment Law, a plaintiff is authorized to use the remedy of attachment against a defendant's property to secure the amount of the claimed indebtedness to the plaintiff in connection with cases involving contracts. This bill would also permit the use of the Attachment Law in cases involving financial abuse against an elder or dependent adult, whether or not other forms of relief are demanded.

**STATUS:** Chaptered by Secretary of State

CSL Position: Support

**SB 739                      Calderon                      Life Insurance**

Existing law regulates the sale of life insurance, in particular sales to seniors, including annuities, as specified. This bill would provide that if a senior makes a written or telephonic request for a meeting the same day to discuss the purchase of specific life insurance or annuities having an initial face amount of \$15,000 or less that are designated by the purchaser for payment of funeral and burial expenses, a notice, as specified, shall be delivered to the senior prior to the start of the meeting. The bill would also provide that the sale of a burial or funeral policy shall not create an existing insurance relationship for the purposes of the required delivery of a specified written notice to seniors 24 hours before meeting in their home to sell other life insurance or annuities.

**STATUS:** In Senate to Unfinished Business

CSL Position: Watch

Support

The Londen Group

California Funeral Directors Association

Support if Amended

Gray Panthers

Oppose

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

**SB 840                      Kuehl                      Single-payer health care coverage**

Existing law does not provide a system of universal health care coverage for California residents. Existing law provides for the creation of various programs to provide health care services to persons who have limited incomes and meet various eligibility

requirements. These programs include the Healthy Families Program administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and the Medi-Cal program administered by the State Department of Health Care Services. Existing law provides for the regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and health insurers by the Department of Insurance.

This bill would establish the California Universal Healthcare System to be administered by the newly created California Universal Healthcare Agency under the control of a Universal Healthcare Commissioner appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill would make all California residents eligible for specified health care benefits under the California Universal Healthcare System, which would, on a single-payer basis, negotiate for or set fees for health care services provided through the system and pay claims for those services. The bill would require the commissioner to seek all necessary waivers, exemptions, agreements, or legislation to allow various existing federal, state, and local health care payments to be paid to the California Universal Healthcare System, which would then assume responsibility for all benefits and services previously paid for with those funds.

**STATUS:** Second Reading, Amended, now in Assembly Appropriations

CSL Position: Support

**SB 868                  Ridley-Thomas                  In home Supportive Services; Criminal  
Background Checks**

This bill would authorize the investigation of certain potential personnel by a nonprofit consortium or public authority to include criminal background checks conducted by the Department of Justice upon the request of the nonprofit consortium or public authority. The bill would require the public authority or nonprofit consortium to deny a potential provider's request to be placed on the registry for providing supportive services to a recipient of the In-Home Supportive Services program if the criminal background check reveals that the person has been convicted of specified offenses.

The bill would also prohibit a fee from being charged to a provider, potential personnel, or a recipient to cover any cost related to administering requirements with respect to an investigation, or the costs to certain entities for processing a criminal background check, under these provisions. This bill would provide that it is not to be construed to prohibit.

**STATUS:** Enrolled and to the Governor

CSL Position: Support

Service Employees International Union Local 6434-ULTCW (source) - Support

Access to Independence - Support

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Support

California Alliance for Retired Americans - Support

California Association of Public Authorities for In-Home Supportive Services - Support

California Foundations for Independent Living Centers - Support

Gray Panthers - Support  
Independent Living Centers of Northern California - Support  
Service Employees International Union - Support  
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME - Support

**SB 984**                      **Ashburn**                      **Property taxation: base year value transfers**

The California Constitution authorizes the Legislature to provide that a severely disabled person or a person over 55 years of age may transfer the base year value, as defined, of property that is eligible for the homeowners' property tax exemption to a replacement dwelling of equal or lesser value located within the same county as the original property from which the base year value is transferred, subject to certain conditions, including a condition that the replacement property is purchased or newly constructed within two years of the sale of the original property. The California Constitution also provides that the Legislature may authorize each county board of supervisors to allow these base year value transfers from property that is located in a different county. Existing property tax law implementing these provisions specifies that a replacement dwelling that is purchased or newly constructed within the first year following the date of the sale of the original property is of "equal or lesser value" if its full cash value does not exceed 105 percent of the full cash value of the original property. Existing law also provides that a replacement dwelling that is purchased or newly constructed within the second year following the date of the sale of the original property is of "equal or lesser value" if its full cash value does not exceed *110 percent* of the full cash value of the original property.

This bill would authorize a county to adopt an ordinance, *resolution, or board order* to specify that a replacement dwelling that is purchased or newly constructed within 2 years of the sale of the original property is *also* of "equal or lesser value" if its full cash value does not exceed the full cash value of the original property *plus* the percentage increase in the *House Price Index* for California for the full calendar quarter or full calendar quarters between the date that the original property was sold and the date that the replacement dwelling was purchased or newly constructed, as determined by the federal Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

**STATUS:** In Revenue & Taxation Committee - Further hearing to be set

CSL Position: Watch  
California Assessors Association, Los Angeles County - Support

**S 309**                      **Sanders/  
Boxer**                      **Global warming**

An increase in temperature of just 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit from today's levels could eventually mean widespread flooding of coastal areas in our country, Europe, Asia, and all over the globe. It also will mean more frequent extreme weather conditions like hurricanes, heat waves, and droughts, evidence of which we're already starting to see.

This bill will reduce U.S. emissions to meet a worldwide greenhouse gas stabilization goal of 450 parts per million and allow for a “cap and trade” program. It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars by 30 percent by 2016 and create a research and development program on global warming. This bill will require utilities to generate or purchase an increasing amount of renewable energy.

CSL Position: Watch