Retirement

SB 341  (Morrell R)  Public employment and retirement.
Summary: Would require the Board of Administration of the Public Employees’ Retirement System to report a calculation of liabilities based on a discount rate equal to the yield on a 10-year United States Treasury note in the year prior to the report. The bill would require the Teachers’ Retirement Board to provide a description of the discount rate the board uses for reporting liabilities, a calculation of liabilities based on a discount rate that is 2% below the long-term rate of return assumed by the board, and a calculation of liabilities based on a discount rate equal to the yield on a 10-year United States Treasury note in the year prior to the report.
Position: Oppose

Health Care

AB 2048  (Limón D)  Alzheimer’s disease: patient informational tool.
Summary: Would require the California Department of Aging, by July 1, 2021, to develop an informational tool to assist individuals and their caregivers in communicating with health care providers after receiving a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and to make that tool available to the public, as specified. The bill would require the tool to be based on a specified publication, and would require the department to update the information provided in that publication and to ensure that the tool meets the needs of an increasingly diverse aging population. The bill would require the department to evaluate the tool for effectiveness at least once every 3 years, contingent on the availability of funding. The bill would be implemented using existing department resources.
Position: Support

AB 2100  (Wood D)  Medi-Cal: pharmacy benefits.
Summary: By executive order, the Governor directed the State Department of Health Care Services to transition pharmacy services for Medi-Cal managed care to a fee-for-service benefit by January 1, 2021. Current law requires the department to convene an advisory group to receive feedback on the changes, modifications, and operational timeframes on the implementation of pharmacy benefits offered in the Medi-Cal program, and to provide regular updates on the pharmacy transition, including a description of changes in the division of responsibilities between the department and managed care plans relating to the transition of the outpatient pharmacy benefit to fee-for-service. This bill would require the department to establish the Independent Medical Review System (system) for the outpatient pharmacy benefit, and to develop a framework for the system that models the above-described requirements of the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act.
Position: Support

AB 2158  (Wood D)  Health care coverage.
Summary: Current law requires a group or individual health care policy issued, amended, renewed, or delivered on or after September 23, 2010, to comply with the requirements of the PPACA, and any rules or regulations issued under the PPACA, that require a group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage to, at a minimum, provide coverage for specified preventive services, and prohibits the plan or health insurance issuer from imposing any cost-sharing requirements for those preventive services. Current law requires a health insurer to comply with those provisions to the extent required by federal law. This bill would delete the requirement that a health insurer comply with the requirement to cover preventive health services without cost sharing to the extent required by federal law, and would instead require a group or individual health insurance policy to, at a minimum, provide coverage for specified preventive services without any cost-sharing requirements for those preventive services, thereby indefinitely extending those requirements.
Position: Support

AB 2159  (Wood D)  Health care coverage.
**Summary:** Current law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Current law requires a health insurer that issues, sells, renews, or offers plan contracts for health care coverage in the state to comply with the requirements of the PPACA, and any rules or regulations issued under the PPACA, that generally prohibit a health insurer offering group or individual coverage from imposing lifetime or annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for an insured. Current law requires an insurer to comply with those provisions to the extent required by federal law. This bill would delete the requirement that a health insurer comply with the prohibition on lifetime or annual limits to the extent required by federal law, and would instead prohibit an individual or group health insurance policy from establishing lifetime or annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for an insured, thereby indefinitely extending the prohibitions on lifetime or annual limits.

**Position:** Support

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**AB 2984**  
(Daly D)  
**Prescription drug prices.**

**Summary:** Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to make prescription drugs more affordable.

**Position:** Support

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**SB 1342**  
(Roth D)  
**Long-term care insurance: protection against inflation.**

**Summary:** Current law requires a long-term care insurance policy or a health care service plan contract, in order to be certified by the department, to contain certain provisions, including protection against loss of benefits due to inflation. Current law requires an applicant to be offered one option that provides, at a minimum, protection against inflation that automatically increases benefit levels by 5% each year over the previous year, as specified, and at least one lower cost option. This bill would require that lower cost option to provide, at a minimum, protection against inflation that automatically increases benefit levels by 3% each year over the previous year. The bill would make related conforming changes.

**Position:** Support

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**Education Funding**

**AB 2291**  
(Medina D)  
**Special education funding.**

**Summary:** Current law establishes a public school financing system that requires state funding for county superintendents of schools, school districts, and charter schools to be calculated pursuant to a local control funding formula. Current law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to determine the amount of funding to be provided for each special education local plan area in accordance with specified calculations. Current law requires the Superintendent, for the 2013–14 fiscal year, to compute an equalization adjustment for each special education local plan area for purposes of increasing the funding rates for special education local plan areas with funding rates below the 90th percentile, as specified. This bill would increase that percentile to the 95th percentile and would require the Superintendent to compute that equalization adjustment commencing with the first fiscal year after funds are apportioned pursuant to a specified formula and for each fiscal year thereafter in which an equalization appropriation is made, as specified.

**Position:** Support

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**SB 795**  
(Beall D)  
**Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program.**

**Summary:** Would establish in state government the Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program, which would be administered by the Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Committee. The bill would authorize a city, county, city and county, joint powers agency, enhanced infrastructure financing district, affordable housing authority, community revitalization and investment authority, transit village development district, or a combination of those entities, to apply to the Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Committee to participate in the program and would authorize the committee to approve or deny plans for projects meeting specific criteria.

**Position:** Oppose

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**SB 956**  
(Jackson D)  
**Taxation: tax expenditures: California Tax Expenditure Review Board.**

**Summary:** Would establish in state government the California Tax Expenditure Review Board as an
independent advisory body to comprehensively assess major tax expenditures, as defined, and make recommendations to the Legislature. The bill would require the board to be composed of 5 members, as specified, who would serve without compensation.

**Position: Support**

**Taxation**

More than 200 bills have been introduced this session that would permanently reduce billions in dollars of education funding through tax credits or exemptions in various forms. CalRTA asks that prior to moving any forward the state first conduct a review of all tax credits and exemptions without transparency, accountability or review.

Should the Legislature wish create new tax credits, CalRTA asks for the following actions to take place:

- Suspend or eliminate tax credits/exemptions during an economic downturn
- Include accountability and transparency provisions that include an economic impact analysis on all existing tax credits and require this provision on all new tax credits
- Pursue the targeted elimination of existing tax credits/exemptions that have not generated the intended economic benefits
- Include an annual cap on all tax credits, including adding a cap to existing ones
- Add a sunset clause to all credits/exemptions that are not covered under existing sunsets, so that members of future Legislatures have an opportunity to reassess economic benefits
- Ensure the General Fund backfills any lost funding to Proposition 98
- Seek a legal opinion asking whether a simple majority threshold is sufficient for passing credits
- Request that all committee and floor analyses include the fiscal impact to Proposition 98