

June 12, 2015
Issue #57

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Update on Medical Cannabis Legislation: Two Major Bills Merge into One

Last week the League-sponsored medical cannabis bill AB 266 (Cooley) merged with AB 34 (Bonta and Jones-Sawyer). The merger occurred as a result of conversations between Assembly Members Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova), Rob Bonta (D-Alameda) and Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles). The negotiations began at the urging of the Assembly Democratic leadership, which had signaled that only one bill would reach the Assembly Floor. On June 4, the full Assembly approved the measure on a bipartisan vote of 62-8, sending AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer) to the Senate. *For more, see Page 2.*

Bills in Committee: June 15-19

All eyes will be on the FY 2015-16 state budget early next week when the Legislature sends its funding proposal by midnight on June 15 to Gov. Jerry Brown for the fiscal year that begins on July 1. In addition, with last week's house of origin deadline, legislative policy committees are already hearing bills that have crossed houses. Policy committees will continue to meet until the Legislature adjourns for its summer recess on July 17. *For more, see Page 3.*

DOF Issues Executive Order to Repay Balance of Unfunded Mandates

Reimbursements Expected June 22

The Department of Finance (DOF) issued an executive order on May 27 to the State Controller's Office (SCO) for the reimbursement of costs incurred in complying with state unfunded mandates prior to 2004. The Controller's office anticipates that payment for the principle owed will be made by June 22 and payment for the interest owed is expected by September 2015, after the Controller's office recalculates and verifies amounts estimated by DOF. *For more, see Page 3.*

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During the merger negotiations, Assembly Member Cooley held firm on protecting local control. The new version of AB 266 retains the key local control protections initially contained in the original. While there are still improvements to be made to the bill, both the League and the California Police Chiefs Association now support AB 266.

The bill would create a new entity, the Office of Medical Marijuana Regulation within Gov. Jerry Brown's office, with overall executive authority over cannabis regulation. Neither the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control nor the Department of Consumer Affairs will have regulatory responsibilities, although both will be consulted in crafting the state portion of the enforcement framework. Local governments will have primary enforcement responsibilities, with the Department of Justice identified as the state entity specifically tasked with broad enforcement responsibilities, on an as needed basis.

Among the local control protections that remain intact in the new version of the bill are the following:

- Both a state license and a local permit will be required to legally operate a cannabis business in California.
- Revocation of either the state license, or a local license, shall by operation of law terminate the ability of a cannabis business to operate in California.
- Evidence of compliance with applicable local ordinances will be a requirement of state licensure.
- The state license must be revoked if locals advise a state agency that a licensee is in violation of local requirements.
- Delivery services may only operate if they are specifically authorized by local ordinance.
- Primarily local enforcement, with a provision for the state to step in only if necessary.

The League will continue to work closely with the California Police Chiefs Association and Assembly Members Cooley, Bonta and Jones-Sawyer to ensure that local control and public safety concerns continue to be addressed as the bill moves forward.

Other Medical Cannabis Legislation Moving Through Legislature

Two other bills dealing with medical cannabis have also crossed houses. The League has a WATCH position on both, but that may change as it continues to track their progress.

SB 643 (McGuire) Medical Marijuana

The full Senate approved this measure on June 4 and it is now in the Assembly. SB 643 is heavily based on an earlier version of AB 266 and the League has been working with Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) to get the bill into the shape that will justify League support. June 3 amendments added some but not all local control protections requested by the League. These amendments also would designate a new lead agency, the Office of Medical Marijuana Regulation within the Business, Consumer Affairs, and Housing Agency.

AB 243 (Wood) Medical Marijuana Cultivation

This measure seeks to facilitate seed-to-sale tracking of all marijuana legally cultivated in California, and to make diversion and black-market traffic of this product more difficult than it is currently. It requires local governments or a designated state agency to establish a program for the identification of individual permitted medical marijuana plants at cultivation sites. It also authorizes local governments to designate local law enforcement as the entity to issue a unique identifier for each plant, including but not limited to a zip tie. The League has been in contact with the author to ensure that local control is not adversely affected as this measure for cultivation regulation progresses.

'Bills in Cmte' Continued from Page 1...

To access the bill, the League's position letter and sample letters, please go to www.cacities.org/billsearch and plug the bill number into the search box.

The League's full 2015 Hot and Priority Bill list is available online.

A full listing of Senate and Assembly hearings is available online. Hearing times are subject to change. Bill language and any available position letters on legislation can be found through the bill search function on the League's website.

Tuesday, June 16

Assembly Public Safety, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- **HOT SB 175 (Huff) Peace officers: body-worn cameras.** *League position: Support.*

Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

- **AB 57 (Quirk) Telecommunications: wireless telecommunication facilities.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1262 (Wood) Telecommunications: universal service: California Advanced Services Fund.** *League position: Support.*

Senate Transportation and Housing, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203)

- **AB 451 (Bonilla) Private parking facilities.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1403 (Maienschein) Housing: joint powers agreement.** *League position: Support.*

Wednesday, June 17

Senate Environmental Quality, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

- **AB 323 (Olsen) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: roadway improvements.** *League position: Support.*

Senate Governance and Finance, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- **AB 1236 (Chiu) Local ordinance: electric vehicle charging stations.** *League position: Oppose unless amended.*

'Mandates' Continued from Page 1...

Under Prop. 1A (2004), sponsored by the League of California Cities® and other local government organizations, the state has until FY 2020-21 to repay mandate reimbursements owed to cities, counties and special districts prior to 2004. The 2014 State Budget Act included \$100 million repayment on the amounts owed. Those payments were made in August 2014. The 2014-15 state budget also provided for additional repayments if revenues in the Governor's 2015 May Budget Revise exceed estimates. The May Revision determined that sufficient additional revenues were received to repay the entire remaining balance of reimbursements owed, approximately \$765 million including interest.

Of the \$765 million, approximately 77 percent would be directed to counties, 22 percent (\$168 million) to cities and 1 percent to special districts.

The executive order contains the amount to be paid to each agency.

The repayment of this debt is consistent with the Governor's focus on improving the state's fiscal condition to ensure it is better prepared for future economic downturns. The League also appreciates the repayment of these funds to local agencies where they can be used for local purposes.

California City Solutions: Chula Vista's Youth Leadership Academy Opens Eyes of High School Students to City Government

This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2014 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called California City Solutions. Chula Vista's Citizens Youth Leadership Academy was submitted in 2014 for the Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government award category.

The city of Chula Vista is home a school district that serves more than 40,000 students. Students often report having a difficult time finding opportunities to fulfill the district's community service requirement for high school graduation. The city in response developed its Citizens' Youth Leadership Academy (CYLA) to help engage youth, inspire community service and explore future career paths.

Started by former Mayor Cheryl Cox, CYLA advanced youth understanding of city government and functions in an effort to encourage informed civic engagement. The program, which ran only during the end of the 2013-14 school year, exposed high school students to a variety of public service careers, emphasizing the importance of high school graduation. It also exposed participants to the types of professions available as students engage in continuing education, college and prepare for a career.

As a former educator and school administrator, then Mayor Cheryl Cox drew on her experience and worked with staff to identify the elements needed to produce a youth-focused civic engagement program. Five key categories were identified: audience, program curriculum, funding, recruitment and incentives and desired outcome.

When designing the program curriculum, the city decided to target active high school students in their junior year on the verge of preparing for graduation, college and/or a career path. The program focused on topics and interactive activities that would best target the audience's interest and further promote conversation among their peers and family members during and after the program.

Recruitment proved to be one of the biggest challenges. City staff wanted student participation from every high school in the city, including public, private and charter schools. The fact that different school systems operate on varying annual schedules with many students participating in extracurricular activities compounded the challenge by reducing when the program could be offered to a narrow timeframe.

The city stressed the importance of optimal attendance allowing only one absence, which helped increase exposure to city government operations and the variety of professions available to students, helping to emphasize the importance of high school graduation.

CYLA consisted of a replicable six-week leadership academy, hosted by the mayor, designed to empower high school juniors through interaction with the city's elected officials, executives and staff and their respective responsibilities within the city.

Sessions were held on consecutive Wednesday evenings at the Chula Vista City Hall. A typical session began with an optional one-hour study hall for students arriving early, followed by a meal for students to interact with the mayor and featured presenters, along with other students. Presenters included one executive and/or council member and a department staff member. Evening sessions ran two hours, including presentations, activities and tours of city departments.

The program wrapped up with a Saturday city-wide bus tour, given by the mayor, highlighting the city's most promising projects, the city professions involved in turning projects from concept to completion, and the challenges with maintaining the city's existing neighborhoods and infrastructure. Following was a graduation program for students and their families.

Walmart funded the program, being particularly interested in the concept of CYLA, and supports local education programs. Walmart's investment of \$5,000 paid for supplies, catering, the bus tour and established funds for future CYLA events, while using existing city assets to conduct the program.

Outreach to local school principals and teachers began in November 2013 in preparation for the program's February 2014 start date. Participants received 20 community service hours for the mandated school requirement, interaction with city leadership, and a completion certificate for use as a resume builder, potential for meaningful internships and meals at the beginning of each session.

The program was designed to cover every major city department, while relating portions of each session to education and career planning. For example, the Chula Vista Police Department tour included a segment on the city's Crime Scene Investigations unit. This experience highlighted how math and science are used in the department's work. The tour additionally outlined the educational path needed for a career in the profession.

Forty-one students from eight high schools in Chula Vista participated in the six-week program. Students that evaluated the program reported more interest in the interactive sessions than the lecture format. Students ranked public safety sessions the highest, followed by the bus tour, planning and development, public works, municipal finance and the role of the city attorney. As expected with high school students, the evening meal was a consistent favorite. All respondents said they would recommend CYLA to other students.

Another motivating factor from the program was opportunities for possible internships, with one awarded onsite during the session with the public works department. Other students interested in certain departments gathered contact information from department heads to organize summer internships. Students also appreciated when presenters described the road map used to achieve the role of fire chief, city manager and city attorney for examples.

Given the positive feedback from students and parents, the city concluded that merging an education program about city government with information about the educational requirements and experience needed to plan for careers provided a meaningful understanding of public service and encouragement to an age group that is preparing for their future.
