# Understanding And Working With The Legislature

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Water Education Foundation

Water 101 – The Basics and Beyond

February 4, 2016

# Water Politics Can Be A Full Body Contact Sport



# To Play The Game, You Need To Know:

- > The Players
- > The Rules of the Game
- Some Strategy

## Meet The California Legislature

#### **Senate**

- > 40 Members
  - 26 Dems
  - 14 Reps
- > 4 Year Terms
  - $6-2016^*$
  - 7 2018\*
  - 11 2020 \*
  - 8 2022<sup>†</sup>
  - $3-2024^{\dagger}$
  - $5-2026^{\dagger}$

#### **Assembly**

- > 80 Members
  - 51 Dems
  - 28 Reps
  - 1 Vacancy
- 2 Year Terms
  - 14 2016<sup>\*</sup>
  - 39 2024<sup>†</sup>
  - 26 2026<sup>†</sup>
- \* Old Term Limit Rules (3 Asm, 2 Sen)
- † New Term Limits Rules (12 yrs Total)

### Meet The California Legislature

#### **Senate**

- 7 Educator
- 7 Local Government
- 5 Attorney
- 5 Business Owner
- 3 Former Leg Staffer
- 3 Rancher/Farmer
- 3 Medical
- 2 Business Persons
- 5 Miscellaneous

#### **Assembly**

- 15 Local Government
- 11 Educator
- 9 Business Owner
- 9 Former Leg Staffer
- 8 Attorney
- 3 Business Person
- 3 Rancher/Farmer
- 21 Miscellaneous

## Leadership

#### **Senate**



Pro Tem

Kevin de Leon



Minority Leader

Jean Fuller

#### **Assembly**



Speaker (3/7/16)

Anthony Rendon



Minority Leader

Chad Mayes

### What Do We Do?

- Adopt Rules
- Pass New Laws
- Appropriate Funds
- Oversight of Executive Branch
- > Constituent Services

# Legislative Calendar Key Dates:

- Jan. 10 Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a))
- Jan. 22 Last day to submit bill requests to Legislative Counsel
- Jan. 31 Last day for bills introduced in 2013 to be passed bills out of the house of origin (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c))
- Feb. 19 Last day for bills to be introduced
- Apr. 22 Last day for policy committees to hear & report fiscal bills
- May 6 Last day for policy committees to hear & report non-fiscal bills
- May 13 Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 6
- May 27 Last day for fiscal committees to hear & report bills

May 31– June 3

Floor Session Only. No committee may meet for any purpose

June 3 Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin

# Legislative Calendar Key Dates:

- Jun 6 Committee meetings may resume
- Jun 15 Budget must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (c)(3)).
- June 30 Last Day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 2014 ballot
- July 1 Last Day for policy committees to meet & report bills

  Summer Recess begins upon adjournment (if budget passed)
- Aug. 1 Reconvene from Summer Recess
- Aug. 12 Last day for fiscal committees to meet & report bills to the Floor
- Aug. 19 Last day to amend bills on the Floor

#### Aug. 15–31

- Floor Session only. No committees, other than Conference Committees & Rules Committee, may meet for any purpose
- Aug. 31 Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec. 10 (c)) Final Recess begins at the end of this day's session

### Standing Committees

#### **Senate**

#### **Assembly**

Agriculture **Appropriations** Banking & Financial Institutions **Budget & Fiscal Review** Business, Professions & **Economic Development** 

Education

**Elections & Constitutional** Amendments

Energy, Utilities & Communications

**Environmental Quality** 

Governance & Finance

**Governmental Organization** 

Health

**Human Services** 

Insurance

Judiciary

Labor & Industrial Relations

Legislative Ethics

Natural Resources & Water

Public Employment &

Retirement

**Public Safety** 

Rules

Transportation & Housing

Veterans Affairs

Accountability &

Administrative Review

Aging & Long-Term Care

Agriculture

**Appropriations** 

Arts, Entertainment, Sports,

Banking & Finance

Budget

Business, Professions & Consumer Protection

Education

**Elections & Redistricting** 

**Environmental Safety &** 

**Toxic Materials** 

Governmental Organization Rules

Health

**Higher Education** 

**Housing & Community** 

Development

**Human Services** 

Insurance

Jobs, Economic Development, &

the Economy

Judiciary

Labor & Employment

Tourism, & Internet Media Local Government

**Natural Resources** 

Privacy & Consumer

Protection

Public Employees,

Retirement &

**Social Security** 

Public Safety

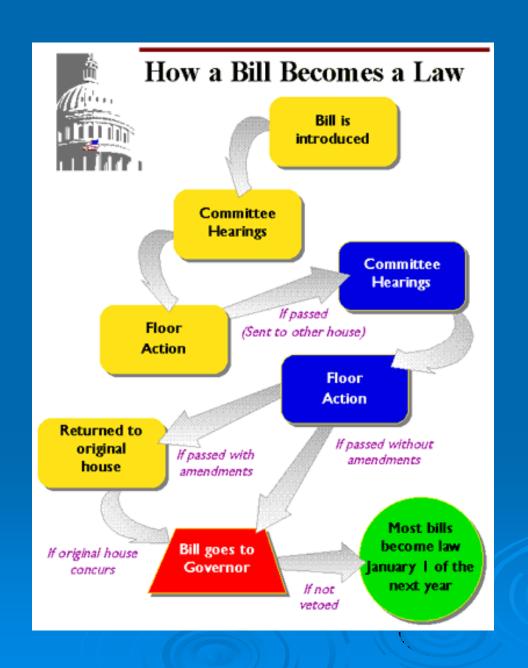
Revenue & Taxation

Transportation

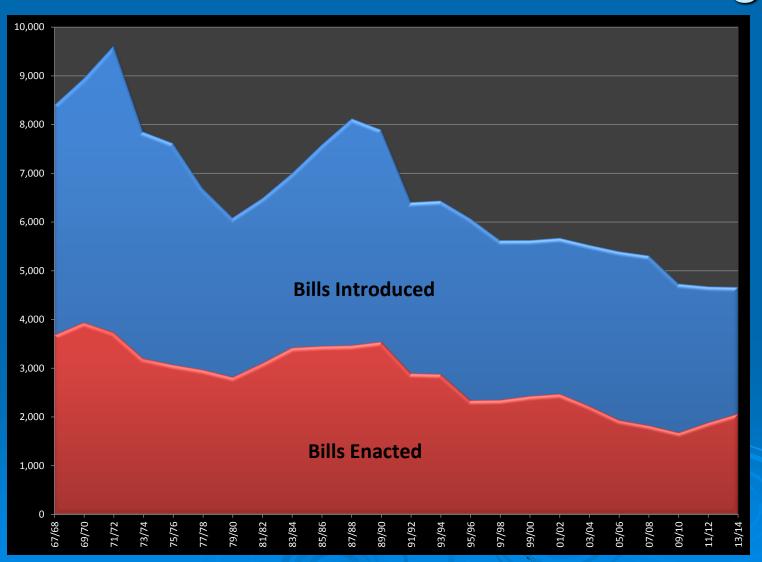
**Utilities & Commerce** 

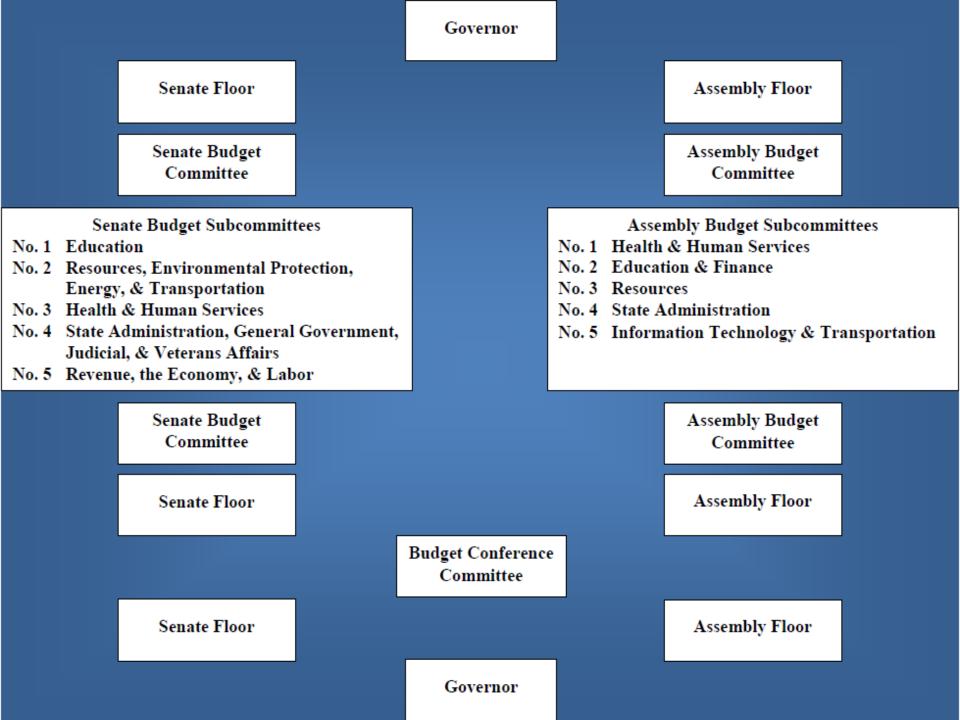
Veterans Affairs

Water, Parks & Wildlife



### Bill Load Has Been Declining





# Oversight: Standing & Select Committees

#### **16 Senate Select Committees:**

43 Assembly Select Committees, Including:

Aging and Long Term Care

Biliteracy and Dual Immersion Programs in California

California-Mexico Cooperation

California's Wine Industry

Children with Special Needs

Climate Change and AB 32 Implementation

Defense and Aerospace

Manufactured Home Communities

Mental Health

Missing and Unidentified Persons

Passenger Rail

Policy Alignment and State Government Efficiency

Ports and Goods Movement

Refugio Oil Spill

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Women and Inequality: Strategies to Promote Opportunity

2024 Olympic Games

Aerospace

California-México Bi-National Affairs

California's Clean Energy Economy

Craft Brewing and Distilling

Digital Divide in Rural California

End of Life Health Care

Homelessness

Improving Bay Area Transportation Systems

Job Creation for the New Economy

Ports

Regional Approaches to Addressing California's Water Crisis

STEM Education

Status of Boys and Men of Color in California

**Urban Rivers and Streams** 

Wine

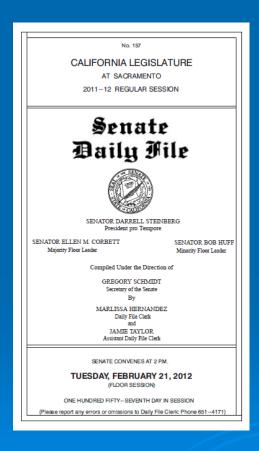
### **Constituent Services**

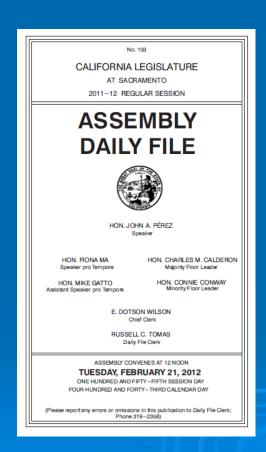
(That Means You!)

### Some Strategy

- > Understand Our Process
- Know What's Going On
- Know Some Lingo
- Don't Be Shy

# You Can't Tell The Players Without A Program



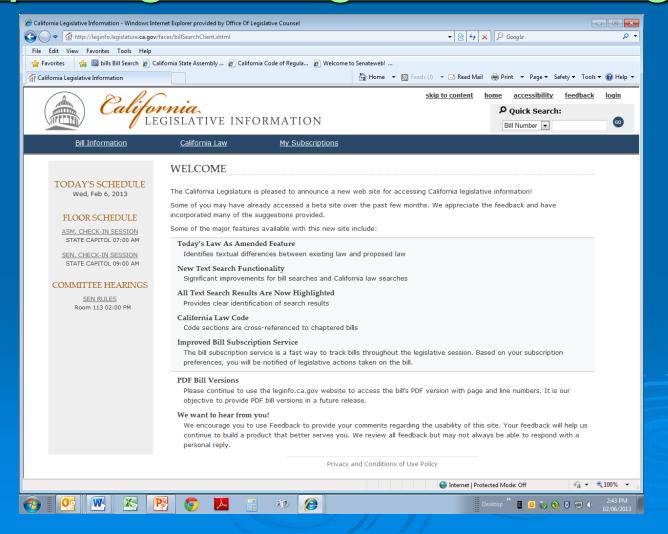


# Everything You Want To Know (Almost)

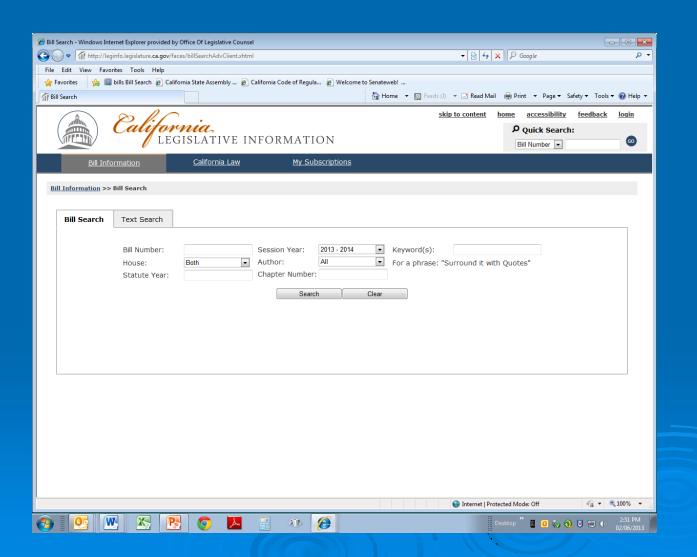
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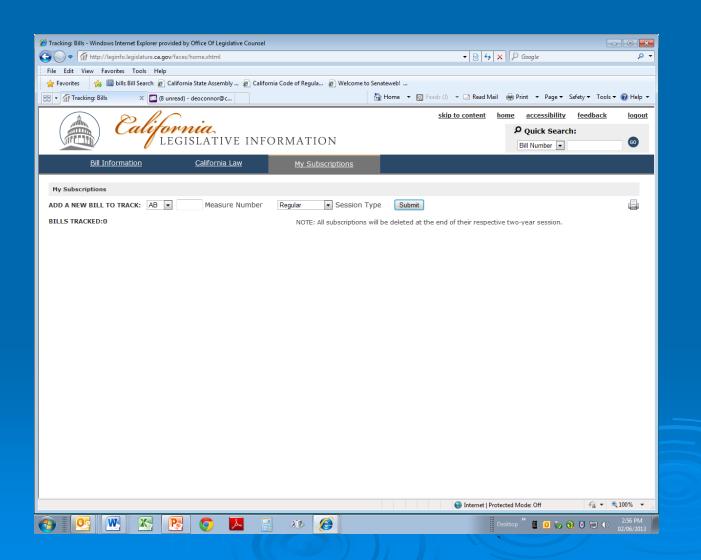
# All Things Bill Related: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/



# Query Any Bill



### Track Bills Via Subscription



# Anything Else Legislative: <a href="http://www.legislature.ca.gov">http://www.legislature.ca.gov</a>



# Tell Us What You Think! (At The Appropriate Time!)

- > Bill Ideas
- Positions On Bills (In Writing)
- > Issues Of Concern
- Background Information

## Some Capitol Lingo

- Gut and amend
- > Hijack
- Interim study
- Suspense file
- Lay off
- Stakeholder
- Sponsor
- May revise
- Blue pencil

- > District bill
- > Trailer bill
- Two-year bill
- Spot bill
- Speakerize
- > On call
- > Mod
- Job killer
- Urgency clause

### Final Points

- Staff Are Important Contacts
- Paper Is Better Than E-Mail E-Mail Is Better Than Phone
- Time Is Usually Of The Essence
- ▶ If In Doubt, Ask

# So What Might We See This Year?



# Questions?

