Understanding And Working With The Legislature

Dennis O’Connor
Water Education Foundation
Water 101 – The Basics and Beyond
February 21, 2020
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>Assembly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>40 Members</strong></td>
<td><strong>80 Members</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 29 Dems</td>
<td>• 60 Dems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 10 Reps</td>
<td>• 19 Reps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 Vacancy</td>
<td>• 1 NPP</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4 Year Terms</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 Year Terms</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 6 – 2020 *</td>
<td>• 31 – 2024 †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 7 – 2022 *</td>
<td>• 19 – 2026 †</td>
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<td>• 7 – 2024 *</td>
<td>• 21 – 2028 †</td>
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<td>• 3 – 2024 †</td>
<td>• 9 – 2030 †</td>
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<td>• 4 – 2026 *</td>
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<td>• 4 – 2026 †</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2 – 2028 †</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 6 – 2030 †</td>
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</tbody>
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* Old Term Limit Rules (3 Asm, 2 Sen)  
† New Term Limits Rules (12 yrs Total)
# Meet The California Legislature

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<tr>
<td>8 Local Government</td>
<td>20 Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Attorney</td>
<td>14 Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Business Owner</td>
<td>10 Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Former Leg Staffer</td>
<td>9 Business Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Educator</td>
<td>6 Former Leg Staffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Organized Labor</td>
<td>3 Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Retired Military</td>
<td>2 Rancher/Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Real Estate</td>
<td>2 Law Enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 CPA/Finance</td>
<td>14 Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Rancher/Farmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Medical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Senate: 8 Local Government, 7 Attorney, 4 Business Owner, 4 Former Leg Staffer, 3 Educator, 3 Organized Labor, 3 Retired Military, 2 Real Estate, 2 CPA/Finance, 2 Rancher/Farmer, 1 Medical
- Assembly: 20 Local Government, 14 Educator, 10 Attorney, 9 Business Owner, 6 Former Leg Staffer, 3 Medical, 2 Rancher/Farmer, 2 Law Enforcement, 14 Miscellaneous
Leadership

Senate

Pro Tem
Toni Atkins

Minority Leader
Shannon Grove

Assembly

Speaker
Anthony Rendon

Minority Leader
Marie Waldron
What Do We Do?

- Adopt Rules
- Pass New Laws
- Appropriate Funds
- Oversight of Executive Branch
- Constituent Services
Legislative Calendar
2020 Key Dates:

Jan. 10 Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a))
Jan. 24 Last day to submit bill requests to Legislative Counsel
Jan. 31 Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c))
Feb. 21 Last day for bills to be introduced
Apr. 24 Last day for policy committees to hear & report fiscal bills
May 1 Last day for policy committees to hear & report non-fiscal bills
May 8 Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 1
May 15 Last day for fiscal committees to hear & report bills
May 26 – May 29
Floor Session Only. No committee may meet for any purpose
May 29 Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin
Legislative Calendar

Key Dates:

Jun.  1  Committee meetings may resume
Jun. 15  Budget must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (c)(3)).
Jun. 25  Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 ballot
Jun. 26  Last day for policy committees to hear & report fiscal bills
Jul.   3  Last Day for policy committees to meet & report bills
          Summer Recess begins upon adjournment (if budget passed)
Aug.  3  Reconvene from Summer Recess
Aug. 14  Last day for fiscal committees to meet & report bills to the Floor

Aug. 17 – 31
          Floor Session only. No committees, other than Conference Committees &
          Rules Committee, may meet for any purpose
Aug. 21  Last day to amend bills on the Floor
Aug. 31  Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec. 10 (c))
          Interim Study Recess begins at the end of this day’s session
Standing Committees

Senate

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
Housing
Human Services
Insurance
Judiciary
Labor, Public Employment & Retirement
Natural Resources & Water
Public Safety
Rules
Transportation
Veterans Affairs

Assembly

Accountability & Administrative Review
Aging & Long-Term Care
Agriculture
Appropriations
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, & Internet Media
Banking & Finance
Budget
Business & Professions
Communications & Conveyance
Education
Elections & Redistricting
Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials
Governmental Organization
Health
Higher Education
Housing & Community Development
Human Services
Insurance
Jobs, Economic Development, & the Economy
Judiciary
Labor & Employment
Local Government
Natural Resources
Privacy & Consumer Protection
Public Employment & Retirement
Public Safety
Revenue & Taxation
Rules
Transportation
Utilities & Energy
Veterans Affairs
Water, Parks, & Wildlife
Until Recently, Bill Load Has Been Declining
Oversight: Standing & Select Committees

18 Senate Select Committees:

- 2020 United States Census
- Aerospace & Defense
- Asian Pacifica Islander Affairs
- California's Wine Industry
- California, Armenia and Artsakh Mutual Trade, Art & Cultural Exchange
- California-Mexico Cooperation
- Career Technology and the New Economy
- Governor's 2019 Report: Wildfires & Climate Change – California's Energy Future
- Growing Impact of Artificial Intelligence in California
- Manufactured Home Communities
- Mental Health
- Missing & Unidentified Persons
- Ports and Goods Movement
- Preparing California's Future Workforce
- Social Determinants of Children's Well-Being
- Status of Boys & Men of Color
- Student Success
- Women, Work and Families

53 Assembly Select Committees, Including:

- 202 Olympic & Paralympic Games
- Aerospace
- California-México Bi-National Affairs
- California's Clean Energy Economy
- Coastal Protection and Access to Natural Resources
- Craft Brewing and Distilling
- Cybersecurity
- End of Life Health Care
- Foster Care
- Hate Crimes
- Infectious Diseases
- International & Regional Agreements
- Master Plan for Higher Education in California
- Nonprofit Sector
- Ports & Goods Movement
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- Status of Boys and Men of Color in California
- Student Debt
- Wine
- Women in the Workplace
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)
All Things Bill Related:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/
You Can …

- Search for specific bills by bill #, key word, author, location, etc.
- Subscribe to a bill
- Search the statutes/codes
- Get the Daily Files & other Leg Publications
- Find a glossary of terms
- And more!
Position Letter Portal:
https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/
How To Read A Bill

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2018
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2017–18 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL
No. 2516

Introduced by Assembly Member Eggman
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Gallagher)
February 14, 2018

An act to amend Section 6429 of the Water Code, relating to dams and reservoirs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to supervise the maintenance and operation of dams and reservoirs as necessary to safeguard life and property. Existing law authorizes the department to impose reservoir restrictions and to levy property liens on an owner of a dam who fails to comply with certain provisions relating to dam safety or any approval, order, rule, regulation, or requirement of the department.

This bill would require the department to post, and update quarterly, on its Internet Web site a report containing the name of each reservoir subject to a restriction and the reservoir’s associated downstream hazard potential classification, the effective date of the reservoir restriction, the reason for the restriction, and actions that would allow the restriction to be removed. The bill, if no reservoir restrictions are in effect, would require the department to post this fact on its Internet Web site.


THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 6429 of the Water Code is amended to read:

(a) The department may impose reservoir restrictions and levy property liens on an owner of a dam who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this part or any approval, order, rule, regulation, or requirement of the department.

(b) (1) The department shall post, and update quarterly, on its Internet Web site a report containing all of the following:

(A) The name of each reservoir subject to a restriction imposed pursuant to subdivision (a) and the reservoir’s associated downstream hazard potential classification.

(B) The effective date of the reservoir restriction.

(C) The reason for the restriction.

(D) Actions that would allow the restriction to be removed.

(2) If no reservoir restrictions are in effect, the department shall post this fact on its Internet Web site.
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 & amend
- Hijack
- Jail Break
- Suspense file
- Lay off
- Stakeholder
- Sponsor
- May revise
- Blue pencil
- Spot bill
- District bill
- Trailer bill
- Two-year bill
- Speakerize
- On call
- Mod
- Job killer
- Urgency clause
Final Points

- Staff Are Important Contacts
- Time Is Usually Of The Essence
- If In Doubt, Ask
So What Might We See This Year?
Questions?