

Final Status Report on Major Business Bills

The following list summarizes the status of priority bills for the California Chamber of Commerce that were sent to the Governor this year, as well as congressional action on the U.S. free trade agreements.

The CalChamber will publish a record of legislators' votes on key bills affecting the California business climate. Generally, the bills selected for the vote record have appeared in one of the status reports.

Bills signed by the Governor will become law on January 1, 2012. Urgency measures went into effect immediately upon being signed.
Federal bills are marked with an *.

Status of bills as of October 14, 2011.

Subject—CalChamber Position	Status
Agriculture and Resources	
Vertebrate Pest Control. AB 634 (Huber; D-El Dorado Hills) Provides farmers and ranchers an additional tool to help prevent vertebrate pests from destroying California's valuable agricultural products by allowing the use of carbon monoxide for vertebrate pest control purposes. Support.	Signed—Chapter 407
Vehicles: Load Inspections. AB 316 (Carter; D-Rialto) Before amendments, curtailed metal and agricultural thefts by expanding law enforcement's ability to inspect certain loads for contraband. Neutral.	Signed—Chapter 317
Banking/Finance	
California Financial Literacy Fund. AB 597 (Eng; D-Monterey Park) Makes a step toward improving the financial literacy of adults in California by authorizing the State Controller to establish the fund and convene an Advisory Committee for fund oversight made up of state agencies, non-profits and financial institution representatives. Support.	Signed—Chapter 612
Education	
More College Graduates. SB 292 (Padilla; D-Pacoima) Before amendments, increased number of degrees earned at community college level, and guaranteed that more students eventually transfer to a baccalaureate program to help meet future demands of state's economy by improving transfer-degree program established by SB 1440 (Padilla) last year. Support.	See "Housing and Land Use" for new description and status of amended bill.
High-Quality Curriculum. SB 611 (Steinberg; D-Sacramento) In combination with SB 612, increases high school graduation rates, improves the college and workforce readiness of those graduates and trains teachers to better prepare California's students to compete in a global economy by emphasizing education programs that provide students with real-world experience and rigorous coursework to help them engage and excel. Support.	Signed—Chapter 631
High-Quality Instruction. SB 612 (Steinberg; D-Sacramento) In combination with SB 611, increases high school graduation rates, improves the college and workforce readiness of those graduates and trains teachers to better prepare California's students to compete in a global economy by emphasizing education programs that provide students with real-world experience and rigorous coursework to help them engage and excel. Support.	Signed—Chapter 632
Elections and Fair Political Practices	
Check and Balance Denial. SB 168 (Corbett; D-San Leandro) Denies the check and balance on the legislative branch by the public by limiting the use of paid signature gatherers critical for successfully sponsoring a referendum. Oppose.	Vetoed

Delays Budget Reform Vote. SB 202 (Hancock; D-Berkeley) Inappropriately delays a statewide vote on an initiative to reform the state budget process by moving it from the 2012 ballot to the 2014 ballot and increases the costs of initiative campaigns by limiting their placement to November elections in even-numbered years. Oppose.	Signed—Chapter 558
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Energy

Electricity Tax. SB 585 (Kehoe; D-San Diego) Collects an additional \$200 million from investor-owned utility ratepayers for the California Solar Initiative to fund a shortfall in the program. Oppose.	Signed—Chapter 312 Urgency
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Electricity Tax. AB 1150 (V. M. Pérez; D-Coachella) Extends collection of Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) funding from investor-owned utility ratepayers an additional three years. Oppose.	Signed—Chapter 310
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Creates Regulatory Uncertainty. SJR 13 (Vargas; D-San Diego) Pre-empts the California Public Utility Commission's authority and calls upon the Secretary of the Department of Defense to reject Sempra Energy's construction of a cross-border transmission line. Oppose.	Resolution Chapter 96
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Energy Efficiency Standards. SB 454 (Pavley; D-Agoura Hills) Before amendments, expanded the police powers of the California Energy Commission related to energy efficiency standards. Opposition removed following amendments. Neutral	Signed—Chapter 591
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Environmental Regulation

Consumer Product Ban. AB 1319 (Butler; D-Marina del Rey) Prejudges the work product of the forthcoming, science-driven Green Chemistry Program by banning the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in specified consumer products. Oppose.	Signed—Chapter 467
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Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fees. AB 1112 (Huffman; D-San Rafael) Before amendments, would have enabled ongoing raids on Oil Spill Prevention and Response Programs by proposing a 60% increase in the assessment that supports the Office of Spill Prevention and Response. Opposition removed due to amendments. No Position.	Signed—Chapter 583
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Hazardous Waste. SB 909 (LaMalfa; R-Richvale) Provides businesses and government that use treated wood products with the most cost-effective guidance and health-and-safety protection for disposing of treated wood waste, saving tens of millions of dollars each year in disposal costs. Support.	Signed—Chapter 601
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Toxic Substances. SJR 3 (Pavley; D-Agoura Hills) Attempts to paint an incomplete and scientifically flawed picture of federal chemical policy by urging federal government to enact legislation to modernize the federal Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976. Oppose.	Resolution Chapter 62
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Government Procurement

Targets Private Sector Contracts. AB 172 (Eng; D-Monterey Park) Before amendments, sought to eliminate outsourcing of government service contracts by posting all state contracts on line with employment numbers and costs, and also imposed severe penalties on employers for failing to provide agencies with the requested information by the deadline. Opposition removed due to amendments. No Position.	Vetoed
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Health

Increased Costs: Health Care Mandate. SB 946 (Steinberg; D-Sacramento) Increases health care premiums by requiring health plan coverage beyond medically necessary treatment for autism by mandating coverage of services that are educational, academic, or custodial in nature. Oppose.	Signed—Chapter 650
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Increased Costs: Mandated Maternity Health Benefit Coverage. SB 222 (Evans; D-Santa Rosa) Increases health insurance premiums and contributes to increasing the ranks of the uninsured by mandating that all health insurance policies provide maternity coverage. Oppose.	Signed—Chapter 509
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Increased Costs. SB 136 (Yee; D-San Francisco) Before gutted and amended, increased health care premiums by mandating that health policies cover smoking cessation services, unless the California Health Benefits Review Program finds there would be a net increase in state costs. Opposition removed due to amendments; now deals with an entirely different issue. No Position.	Signed—Chapter 698
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Housing and Land Use

Stifles Economic Development. SB 469 (Vargas; D-San Diego) Undermines local land use discretion by mandating an additional and costly economic and community impact report prior to approving a permit to construct a large retail establishment. Oppose.	Vetoed
Usurps Local Control. SB 833 (Vargas; D-San Diego) Undermines employer confidence in local land use decisions and sets a precedent for the Legislature to invalidate them based on arbitrary criteria. Oppose.	Vetoed
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Streamlining. SB 226 (Simitian; D-Palo Alto) Before amendments, created unnecessary litigation and increased costs for CEQA projects by attempting to ensure timely comments and streamlining the CEQA process for certain solar and infill development projects. Opposition removed due to amendments. Neutral.	Signed—Chapter 469
Expedited CEQA Judicial Review. SB 292 (Padilla; D-Pacoima) Establishes an administrative and judicial review process for the environmental impact report (EIR) approvals granted for the stadium project in Los Angeles. Previously supported as an entirely different bill (see “Education”). Support.	Signed—Chapter 353
New Home Construction. AB 208 (Fuentes; D-Sylmar) Facilitates the smooth recovery of the housing market by extending the life of active tentative subdivision maps and parcel maps for a period of two years. Support.	Signed—Chapter 88 Urgency
Building Standards Commission. AB 930 (Gordon; D-Menlo Park) Adds a requirement that at least one commissioner on the Building Standards Commission be experienced and knowledgeable in green building design. Support.	Signed—Chapter 399

Immigration

Electronic Employment Verification. AB 1236 (Fong; D-Cupertino) Avoids creation of a patchwork of inconsistent and incompatible state and local laws by prohibiting the State of California, and cities, counties or special districts from requiring employers to use the federal E-Verify system for electronic verification of employees’ eligibility to work in the United States. Support.	Signed—Chapter 691
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International Relations/Trade

Encourages Foreign Investment. SCR 33 (Price; D-Los Angeles) Encourages foreign direct investment in California by promoting more access to EB-5 visas. Support.	Resolution Chapter 60
State Contracting. SB 861 (Corbett; D-San Leandro) Before amendments, would have forbidden the state from contracting for goods from companies that violate federal law dealing with conflict minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Opposition removed due to amendments. Neutral.	Signed—Chapter 715
*U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. A bilateral free trade agreement that will lower tariffs and foster increased trade between both countries. The agreement also will increase momentum toward lowering trade barriers and set a positive example for other small economies in the Western Hemisphere. Support.	Passed Congress 10/12/11
*U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. A bilateral free trade agreement that will lower tariffs and foster increased trade between both countries and is a critical element of the U.S. strategy to liberalize trade through multilateral, regional and bilateral initiatives. Support.	Passed Congress 10/12/11
*U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement. A bilateral free trade agreement that will lower tariffs and foster increased trade between both countries. The agreement also will increase momentum toward lowering trade barriers and set a positive example for other small economies in the Western Hemisphere. Support.	Passed Congress 10/12/11

Labor and Employment

Hampers Employment Decisions. AB 22 (Mendoza; D-Artesia) Unfairly limits private employers’ ability to use consumer credit reports for legitimate employment purposes, such as those positions that have direct and unsupervised access to any amount of cash and/or valuable non-financial assets. Oppose/ Job Killer.	Signed—Chapter 724
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<p>Increased Agricultural Costs. SB 104 (Steinberg; D-Sacramento) Attempts to limit employees' ability to independently and privately vote for unionization in the workplace, by essentially eliminating a secret ballot election and replacing it with the submission of representation cards signed by over 50% of the employees, which leaves employees susceptible to coercion and manipulation by labor organizations. Oppose/Job Killer.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Unpaid Bereavement Leave. AB 325 (B. Lowenthal; D-Long Beach) Adds to California businesses' legal costs and responsibilities by requiring an employer to provide employees with up to three days of unpaid bereavement leave and elevating the significance of the right to bereavement leave to the same level as the right to be free from racial or gender discrimination and harassment. Oppose/Job Killer.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Ban on Payroll Cards. SB 931 (Evans; D-Santa Rosa) Essentially prohibits financial institutions from charging fees related to the use of payroll cards, thereby imposing a de facto ban on the product and eliminating employers' ability to offer this cost-beneficial option for paying wages to employees. Oppose.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Interference with Employment Contracts. AB 267 (Swanson; D-Alameda) Limits parties' right to contract by characterizing any non-California choice of forum clauses and/or choice of law clauses in employment contracts as void and unenforceable, unless additional compensation is paid to include such provisions. Oppose.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Duplicative and Burdensome Notice Requirement on Employers. AB 469 (Swanson; D-Alameda) Before amendments, would have imposed a burdensome and duplicative notice requirement on employers that could subject them to potential litigation. Opposition removed due to amendments. No Position.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 655</p>
<p>New Liability for Using Independent Contractors. SB 459 (Corbett; D-San Leandro) Creates additional uncertainty for employers who use independent contractors by imposing new penalties for the willful misclassification of someone as an independent contractor even though state agencies provide no clear or consistent definition of an independent contractor. Oppose.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 706</p>
<p>Bone Marrow/Organ Donation Leave. SB 272 (DeSaulnier; D-Concord) Clarifies the requirements of paid bone marrow and/or organ donation leave, to provide employers with certainty as to how this leave should be implemented. Sponsor/Co-Sponsor.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 147</p>
<p>Punitive Administrative Penalties. AB 240 (Bonilla; D-Concord) Allows the Labor Commissioner of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), a politically influenced position and agency, the authority to award liquidated damages pursuant to any complaint brought before the DLSE that alleges payment of less than the minimum wage. Oppose.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 272</p>
<p>Liability Exposure to Farmers. AB 243 (Alejo; D-Watsonville) Improperly attempts to create joint liability for farmers by requiring farm labor contractors to print on employee pay stubs the name and address of the entity that contracted with the farm labor contractor. Oppose.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 671</p>
<p>Written Commission Agreements. AB 1396 (Committee on Labor and Employment) Before amendments, subjected employers to triple damages for failure to set forth commission agreements in writing. Neutral.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 556</p>
<h2 style="color: red;">Legal Reform and Protection</h2>	
<p>Undermines Judicial Discretion. AB 559 (Swanson; D-Alameda) Unreasonably increases business litigation costs by limiting judicial discretion to reduce or deny exorbitant attorneys fees in fair employment and housing claims that should have been raised in a limited civil proceeding. Oppose Unless Amended/Job Killer.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Clarifies Civil Procedure. AB 1403 (Committee on Judiciary) In part, amends the Code of Civil Procedure to provide certainty for parties by establishing a deadline, in the absence of one set by the court, for accepting or rejecting a conditional order with an addition or reduction of damages. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 409</p>
<p>New Lawsuits Against Small Business. SB 111 (Yee; D-San Francisco) Before amendments, could have resulted in new shakedown lawsuits against business establishments by making it a strict liability violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, subject to minimum damages of \$4,000, if a business limits the use of a customer's language, even if unintentionally. Removed opposition due to amendments. No Position/Former Job Killer.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Legal Burden for Rental Car Companies. AB 621 (C. Calderon; D-Montebello) Before amendments, required car rental companies to accept service of process for international renters who purchase supplemental liability coverage, and to notify them of service. Opposition removed due to amendments. No Position.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 531</p>

<p>Business-to-Business Contract Rights. SB 684 (Corbett; D-San Leandro) Before amendments, unnecessarily limited the freedom of businesses to negotiate choice-of-law provisions in contracts governing workers' compensation claims. Opposition removed due to amendments. No Position.</p>	Signed—Chapter 566
<p>Promotes Arbitration. AB 456 (Wagner; R-Irvine) Before amendments, required courts to suspend proceedings, after motion of one of the parties, to allow for arbitration according to a self-executing arbitration agreement. Support removed due to amendments. No Position.</p>	Signed—Chapter 673

Local Government

<p>Anti-Privatization of Public Services. AB 438 (Williams; D-Santa Barbara) Excludes private sector from contracting to provide library services by establishing burdensome requirements on local governments that operate library systems, and creates a bad precedent for future efforts to privatize services. Oppose.</p>	Signed—Chapter 611
<p>Threatens Local Transportation Projects. SB 922 (Steinberg; D-Sacramento) Reduces competition for local transportation projects and raises the cost of those projects by requiring local governments to allow project labor agreements or forgo state funds. Oppose.</p>	Signed—Chapter 431
<p>Local Government Bankruptcies. AB 506 (Wieckowski; D-Fremont) Before amendments, added an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy for local government entities that need to file for bankruptcy and could, potentially, have increased costs to the business community and the state. Opposition removed due to amendments. Neutral.</p>	Signed—Chapter 675

Other

<p>Self-Serve Checkout. AB 183 (Ma; D-San Francisco) Unnecessarily prohibits the cost-saving process of self-service checkout of alcoholic beverages and slows checkout at retailers. Oppose.</p>	Signed—Chapter 726
<p>Reduces Costs. AB 6 (Fuentes; D-Sylmar) Reduces costs associated with, and simplifies the reporting system for, both CalFresh and CalWORKs and maximizes critical federal nutrition benefits for needy families. Support.</p>	Signed—Chapter 501
<p>Food Safety. SB 303 (Padilla; D-Pacoima) Clarifies which food facilities are subject to food safety training rules and who can offer the certification courses. Safety training reduces the incidence of food-borne illness, which reduces liability for restaurants. Support.</p>	Signed—Chapter 233 Urgency
<p>Clarification of Definition. SB 32 (Leno; D-San Francisco) Adds clarity to the definition of “rectifier” within the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act by excluding any on-sale licensee that colors, flavors or blends distilled spirits or wine products on the licensed premises. Support.</p>	Signed—Chapter 301 Urgency

Privacy and Confidentiality

<p>Identity Theft. SB 208 (Alquist; D-Santa Clara) Authorizes restitution for expenses for a period of three years to monitor an identity theft victim's credit report and for the costs to repair the victim's credit. Support.</p>	Signed—Chapter 45 Urgency
<p>Credit Cards: Zip Codes. AB 1219 (Perea; D-Fresno) Amended from a broad-based bill to a bill that provides clarification for those instances when an entity that accepts credit cards may not request certain types of personal identification information (PII) to complete the transaction. Specifically, this bill exempts from the prohibition against collecting and retaining PII when the PII is used solely for preventing fraud, theft or identify theft in a sales transaction at a retail motor fuel dispenser or retail motor fuel payment island automated cashier. Neutral.</p>	Signed—Chapter 690 Urgency

Regulatory Reform

<p>Regulatory Reform. SB 617 (R. Calderon; D-Montebello) Reforms the regulatory process by requiring an economic analysis of all major regulations at the beginning of the regulatory process, thus providing more transparency and better data on which to base selection of most cost-effective regulatory alternative. Support.</p>	Signed—Chapter 496
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<p>Process Reform. SB 14 (Wolk; D-Davis) Improves the operation of state agencies through performance-based budgeting. The periodic review provided by this bill will ensure that agencies and their programs remain up to date and relevant, serving the most important needs in California and preserving scarce public resources. Support.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Taxation</p>	
<p>Creates Employer Tax Credit Uncertainty. SB 364 (Yee; D-San Francisco) Eliminates the incentive effect of future-enacted tax credits by imposing a penalty on California employers who claim the credit and subsequently experience a loss in employment greater than 10 percent in a single year, whether or not the reduction of employees is connected to the effectiveness of the incentive. Oppose.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Dependent Health Care Conformity. AB 36 (Perea; D-Fresno) Conforms with federal law regarding the treatment of employee premium payments for adult children health care coverage as non-taxable income. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 17 Took Effect Immediately</p>
<p>Mutual Investment Fund Conformity. AB 1423 (Perea; D-Fresno) Provides conformity to federal law regarding the taxable treatment of mutual fund investment companies, so as to provide such California-based companies with certainty. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 490 Urgency</p>
<p>Tax Incentives. AB 1069 (Fuentes; D-Los Angeles) Extends the film credit set to expire on July 1, 2014 for an additional five years. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 731 Took Effect Immediately</p>
<p>Local Fee Assessment. SB 223 (Leno; D-San Francisco) Before amendments, would likely have increased taxes on business and consumers by providing 58 counties with new taxing authority to impose, pursuant to voter approval, a local vehicle license fee, the revenue of which was to be used for general county purposes. Removed opposition due to amendments. No Position.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Discourages Investment. SB 508 (Wolk; D-Davis) Creates uncertainty for California employers making long-term investment decisions by requiring all future tax credits to sunset after no more than 10 years. “Job killer” provision amended, but CalChamber still opposes. Oppose/Former Job Killer.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Tourism</p>	
<p>Unequal Opportunities. AB 42 (Huffman; D-San Rafael) Creates an uneven playing field in the bidding process in favor of non-profit organizations over private for-profit companies and would result in a loss of revenue for the state. Oppose unless amended.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 450</p>
<p>Transportation and Infrastructure</p>	
<p>Unconstitutional Tax on Sale of Motor and Diesel Fuel. SB 791 (Simitian; D-Palo Alto) Before closing-night amendments to change subject to requiring that mammogram reports include specified information, had been gutted and amended in late August to authorize metropolitan planning organizations to impose a special tax—mischaracterized as a “fee”—on the sale of motor and diesel fuel with approval by only a majority vote of the people, rather than the constitutionally required two-thirds. No position on final amendments, but oppose motor and diesel fuel tax.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Costly Employer Mandate. SB 582 (Yee; D-San Francisco) Raises employer costs and opens them to potential liability by authorizing metropolitan planning organizations and air quality management districts to mandate employers to offer commuter benefit programs to employees. Oppose.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Public Works Plan. SB 468 (Kehoe; D-San Diego) Amended to apply only to San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), this bill allows SANDAG to adopt a public works plan, which coordinates all public works projects along a stretch of I-5 in the coastal zone in SANDAG jurisdiction with only one environmental impact report required, and allows SANDAG to operate a high-occupancy toll lane. Opposition removed due to amendments. Neutral.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 535</p>
<p>Water Supply and Quality</p>	
<p>Recycled Water. AB 134 (Dickinson; D-Sacramento) Before amendments, allowed Sacramento Sanitation District to sell recycled water from an upgraded sanitation system without proper safeguards for downstream water rights holders. Neutral.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 212</p>

<p>Property Rights. AB 359 (Huffman; D-San Rafael) Before amendments, abrogated private property rights by requiring landowners to affirmatively request written notification of proposed groundwater recharge area designation changes from multiple local agencies. Amended to remove opposition. Neutral.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 572</p>
<p>Workers' Compensation</p>	
<p>Erodes Workers' Comp Reforms. AB 1155 (Alejo; D-Watsonville) Increases costs and lawsuits in the workers' compensation system by eroding the apportionment provision that protects an employer from paying for disability that did not arise from work. Oppose/Job Killer.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Extension of Temporary Disability Benefit. AB 947 (Solorio; D-Anaheim) Increases costs to employers by broadening the definition of the types of injuries that qualify for an extended timeframe to receive temporary disability benefits, from 104 weeks to 240 weeks. Oppose.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Lowers Pharmaceutical Costs. AB 378 (Solorio; D-Anaheim) Lowers workers' compensation costs by establishing guidelines for dispensing compound drugs, the circumstances under which those drugs would be covered and the reimbursement amount, and removes the incentives for physicians to refer patients to pharmacies in which the physician or physician's family has a financial interest. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 545</p>
<p>Delays Workers' Compensation Cases. AB 584 (Fong; D-Cupertino) Causes delays in utilization review and increases costs by unnecessarily requiring utilization review physicians to be licensed in California. Oppose.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Increased Workers' Comp Costs. AB 211 (Cedillo; D-Los Angeles) Increases costs in the workers' comp system by establishing a flat \$6,000 supplemental job displacement voucher to cover retraining and skills enhancement for injured workers without clarifying the timeframe when the injured worker can start receiving the voucher. Oppose unless amended.</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Lowers Frictional Costs in Workers' Compensation. AB 335 (Solorio; D-Anaheim) Brings an estimated savings of \$42 million to the workers' compensation system by requiring the workers' compensation administrative director (AD) to work with the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) to develop regulations regarding notices to injured workers; requires AD and CHSWC to develop and make accessible a booklet written in plain language about the workers' comp claims process; streamlines and simplifies other notices to employees. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 544</p>
<p>Streamlines Workers' Comp System. AB 1426 (Solorio; D-Anaheim) Streamlines the workers' comp process and eliminates duplicative bureaucracy and inconsistency by eliminating the court administrator position. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 559 Urgency</p>
<p>Contains Workers' Compensation Costs. AB 1168 (Pan; D-Sacramento) Lowers costs for employers and insurers by establishing a fee schedule for vocational experts' services. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 555</p>
<p>Use of Employers' Assessment for Unrelated Program. AB 436 (Solorio; D-Anaheim) Shifts funds from a program paid for by employers to assist injured workers that were employed by non-complying employers to a program entirely unrelated to workers' compensation. Oppose.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 378</p>
<p>Ensures Contractors Have Coverage. AB 397 (Monning; D-Carmel) Seeks to address the underground economy problem by singling out contractors that do not have workers' compensation coverage but requiring contractors that are exempt from having coverage at the time they are licensed to certify they are still exempt or have gotten coverage at the time of their license renewal. Support.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 546</p>
<p>Raises Workers' Compensation Costs. SB 457 (R. Calderon; D-Montebello) Before amendments, raised workers' compensation costs to employers by circumventing the Official Medical Fee Schedule and increased delays in claims by allowing more liens. Opposition removed due to amendments. Neutral.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 564</p>
<p>Workers' Compensation Reporting Requirements. SB 826 (Leno; D-San Francisco) Before amendments, increased monetary and frictional costs by penalizing self-insured companies for even small mistakes in filings with the administrative director of the Division of Workers' Compensation. As amended, enforces existing law that requires self-insured companies report to the division certain workers' compensation-related information and places fines on them for failure to report. Neutral.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 568</p>
<p>State Compensation Insurance Fund Coverage. AB 228 (Fuentes; D-Sylmar) Before amendments, allowed the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) to purchase "reinsurance" to cover the facility of a California-based business located outside of the state. After amendments, forbids SCIF from advertising the ability to insure qualified employers under the law of any other state. No Position.</p>	<p>Signed—Chapter 670</p>