



California Special
Districts Association
Districts Stronger Together

e-News



Learn About New Laws Affecting Special Districts in 2018

Each year, the California State Legislature passes so many laws, it seems as if there is barely time to read them all. CSDA is here to help! We've read through all the bills so you don't have to. Now, we're bringing you in-depth analyses about those new laws most impacting special districts.

We've partnered with our business affiliates, who are experts in the subject matter, to bring you a new article each week. Over the span of eight weeks, our New Laws of 2018 Series will cover:

- CSDA-sponsored **Assembly Bill 979** by Assemblymember Tom Lackey (AD-36) which simplifies special district representation on Local Area Formation Commissions.
- **Senate Bill 450** authored by Senator Bob Hertzberg (SD-26) that requires special districts to obtain and disclose bond information in an open meeting.
- **Senate Bill 496** by Senator Anthony Cannella (SD-12) on indemnity for special districts working with design professionals.
- **Senate Bill 96** from the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review dealing with contractor registration requirements on public works projects.
- **Assembly Bill 22** authored by Assemblymember Rob Bonta (AD-18). This new law deals with how special districts store electronic media.
- **Assembly Bill 804** by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (AD-58) that allows the State Controller's Office to audit special districts' internal controls to prevent financial errors and fraud.
- **Assembly Bill 1008** authored by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (AD-7) which, with certain exceptions, prohibits an employer from asking an applicant for employment to disclose information regarding a criminal conviction.

- **Assembly Bill 168** authored by Assemblymember Susan Eggman (AD-13) which prohibits a special district from seeking the salary history information of an applicant for employment as a factor in determining whether to offer an applicant employment or what salary to offer an applicant.
- **Senate Bill 63** authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (SD-19) that deals with unlawful parental leave employment practices.

Be sure to read CSDA's E-News each week in November and December for more.

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CSDA Helps Prevent Over 50 Bad Bills from Becoming Law



Of the 51 bills CSDA opposed in 2017, only 8 became law.

In total, 2,980 legislative measures were introduced in the California State Capitol in 2017. CSDA actively tracked 854 of those bills and directly lobbied on 123 measures. With direction from its Legislative Committee, CSDA identified 51 bills that would have had negative impacts on special districts and, working with members and allies, killed or amended all but eight of those bills. On the other hand, CSDA officially supported 72 bills where more than half (37) became law.

Here is a brief look at CSDA's major legislative accomplishments in 2017:

Assembly Bill 979 (Lackey)

CSDA's sponsored legislation in 2017 was Assembly Bill 979 authored by Assemblymember Tom Lackey. The bill simplified the process for special districts to gain representation on local agency formation commissions (LAFCOs), while maintaining local control. Governor Brown signed this bill into law on September 01.

Senate Bill 448 (Wieckowski)

While, CSDA opposed the original version of Senate Bill 448, as it lacked due process for special districts and California residents, the author eventually accepted CSDA-proposed amendments to establish a clear and prudent definition of "inactive district" and create an expedited process for dissolution of such districts. Once these amendments were made, CSDA was able to move to a

supportive position on this bill. The Governor eventually signed SB 448 into law on September 28.

Assembly Bill 1479 (Bonta)

At its outset, CSDA was opposed to Assembly Bill 1479 (Bonta) that not only required public agencies to identify custodians of records at their agencies who will process California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests, but that also added civil penalties for agencies that violate the CPRA. Thanks to nearly 60 opposition letters submitted by special districts regarding the bill, Assemblymember Bonta agreed to amend AB 1479 in the Senate Judiciary Committee. CSDA's amendments established an appropriate burden of proof to win a civil lawsuit, eliminating the probability of serial litigation. The bill also moved to focus solely on bad acting public agencies that "knowingly and willfully" violate the CPRA. With these amendments, CSDA moved to a neutral position. Nonetheless, the bill was eventually vetoed by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 733 (Berman)

CSDA-supported Assembly Bill 733, authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman, was signed into law by Governor Brown on October 11. The bill enhances financing options for projects that enable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Senate Bill 224 (Jackson)

Senate Bill 224, by Senator Hanna-Beth Jackson, originally directed the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop proposed CEQA guideline changes related to a lead agency's determination of the baseline conditions for the purposes of CEQA review in certain circumstances. CSDA was opposed to the original bill, but was able to move to a neutral position with amendments. SB 244 is now a two-year bill related to sexual harassment and CSDA will continue to monitor SB 224's movements in 2018.

Thank you to our members who answered our calls to action, sent in support or opposition letters, met with their legislative representatives, and were overall active participants in our grassroots advocacy. We could not have had such a successful year without you. Thank you!

Please email the Advocacy and Public Affairs Director, Kyle Packham, at Kylep@csda.net to join our Grassroots Advocacy efforts in 2018.

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