

July 29, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Assembly Appropriations Committee, Chair
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento CA, 95814

RE: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File Recommendations

Dear Chair Wicks,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), proudly representing all 58 California counties, writes to share the county perspective on pending legislation before your committee.

Counties are facing heightened fiscal uncertainty due, in large part, to the fiscal impacts of H.R. 1 and increasing demands for critical public services, threatening counties' ability to effectively serve California's communities, especially our most vulnerable residents. Given these challenges, counties require a long-term partnership with the state that prioritizes fiscal sustainability, starting with the careful consideration of the impacts of legislation that erodes local control and diverts resources from core safety net programs and essential county services. CSAC remains committed to advocating for fiscally responsible legislation that does not impose additional unfunded costs on counties.

CSAC's recommendations are based on the need to maintain county fiscal stability while improving the delivery of essential services to California's communities. Therefore, we respectfully submit the following recommendations for the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense Hearing for its consideration.

Opposed Bills

Counties respectfully request the following bills be held on the committee's suspense file.

CSAC Officers

President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

**1st Vice
President**
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

**2nd Vice
President**
Kent Boes
Colusa County

Past President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

Labor and Employment

- **SB 947 (McNerney) Employment: automated decision systems.**

Regulates employers' use of automated decision systems (ADS) by limiting the purposes when it may be used, requiring post use notices to affected workers when ADS are used in discipline, termination or deactivation decisions, and establishing enforcement and penalties for violations. Ensuring compliance with the bill may prove challenging—particularly given the complexity of overlapping requirements with existing public employment laws—and would complicate the routine work of local governments by placing additional burdens on human resources and information technology departments. This measure would result in significant ongoing costs for counties, straining already limited county budgets.

- **SB 951 (Reyes) Employment: technological displacement: notice.**

Requires public agencies to notify workers at least 60 days before a cessation in hiring caused in whole or in substantial part by an AI or ADS. Failure to provide notification to workers would cause an employer to be liable for a civil penalty or fine of up to \$500 per day. This measure creates an ongoing compliance and documentation obligation that would increase administrative costs and expose local governments to enforcement actions and steep penalties.

Natural Resources

- **SB 1326 (Wahab) California Environmental Quality Act: tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures.**

Broadens California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements related to tribal cultural resources and mitigation measures, potentially increasing litigation risk and creating additional delays for critical projects, including housing, transportation, and infrastructure projects.

Revenue and Taxation

- **SB 1329 (McNerney) Real property tax: valuation: active solar energy system.**

Prescribes rules for the valuation of active solar energy systems under specified property tax assessment methods, which would materially alter the valuation of these systems, resulting in a potentially significant reduction in property tax revenues for counties, cities, special districts, and schools. Preliminary analysis of the bill indicates the value of these solar energy systems could be reduced by 10 percent to 20 percent, resulting in significantly less property tax revenue for counties that would otherwise be used to support public safety, fire protection, libraries, parks, and essential health and human services.

CSAC Officers

President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

1st Vice President
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

2nd Vice President
Kent Boes
Colusa County

Past President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

Water, Parks, and Wildlife

- **SB 1305 (Richardson) Wildlife: bears.**

Directs the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a roadmap to evaluate the feasibility and advisability of reintroducing the grizzly bear. The potential reintroduction of grizzly bears after over a century of being absent from California forests presents a future risk to residents and an immediate risk to existing state regulatory efforts.

Support Bills

Counties respectfully request the following bills be removed from the committee's suspense file and move to the Assembly floor for a vote.

Insurance

- **SB 1054 (Cabaldon) Unemployment insurance: reporting requirements.**

Directs the Employment Development Department to collect additional information from employers about wages to support automated eligibility determinations for health and nutrition programs. Importantly, this measure will help mitigate some of the new workload impacts on counties resulting from H.R. 1 by improving the employment information available to support automated Medi-Cal and CalFresh work requirement exemptions and eligibility determinations.

Water, Parks, and Wildlife

- **SB 872 (McNerney) Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund.**

Protects the millions of water users in the state, communities reliant on safe, clean drinking water, and the environment by making long overdue investments in the State Water Project and the network of levees protecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

CSAC appreciates the continued engagement to strengthen state and local relationships, and to realize the opportunities to safeguard fiscal resources to best support the people we collectively serve. In addition to these comments, we have sent individual letters on each bill with more detail. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at krodriguez@counties.org. Thank you for your consideration.

CSAC Officers

President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

**1st Vice
President**
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

**2nd Vice
President**
Kent Boes
Colusa County

Past President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

July 29, 2026

Page **4** of **4**

Respectfully,



Kimberly Rodriguez

Chief Legislative Advocate, CSAC

CC: Honorable Robert Rivas, Speaker of the Assembly
Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Steve O'Mara, Chief of Staff, Speaker Robert Rivas
Monica Henestroza, Policy Director, Speaker Robert Rivas
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

CSAC Officers

President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

**1st Vice
President**
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

**2nd Vice
President**
Kent Boes
Colusa County

Past President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

CEO
Graham Knaus