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## Legislation regarding internet access, LCFF funds and more mark final days of 2019–20 session

With only 10 days remaining in the 2019–20 legislative session and legislators tightly focused on responding to COVID-19, the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees have reviewed their suspense files and sent key bills to their respective floors for a full vote. As an unprecedented session draws to a close, here are the education-related bills we're watching:

**Assembly Bill 331** (Medina, D-Riverside) would **add the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies to the high school graduation requirements** beginning in the 2029–30 school year. The bill would authorize local educational agencies, including charter schools, to require a full-year course in ethnic studies at their discretion. AB 331 would also require that all schools serving grades 9-12 offer a one-semester ethnic studies course beginning in the 2025–26 school year. Lastly, AB 331 states that the requirements will take effect only upon an appropriation by the Legislature. **CSBA Position: Support**

**AB 570** (Aguiar-Curry, D-Winters) would **make progress towards addressing the state's current lack of adequate infrastructure needed to support closing the digital divide** for approximately 1 million California students. The bill would **require the California Advanced Services Fund to promote remote learning and telehealth** and require the Public Utilities Commission to prioritize projects that reach the greatest number of underserved households, among other factors. It would also establish the State Agency Direct Allocation Account and authorize the commission to fund projects that further digital access. **Learn more in this [Sacramento Bee op-ed by State Controller Betty Yee and California Emerging Technology Fund President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak](#)**. **CSBA Position: Support**

**AB 1835** (Weber, D-San Diego) would **require each LEA to annually identify and report unspent Local Control Funding Formula supplemental and concentration grant funds** and clarifies that the unspent funds must continue be used to increase or improve services for unduplicated pupils in future years. **CSBA Position: Support**

**AB 1845** (Rivas, D-Hollister) would **create the Office to End Homelessness** within the Governor's office to serve as the lead entity for ending homelessness in California and would task the office with coordinating homeless programs, services, data and policies between federal, state and local agencies, among other responsibilities. The bill would also provide for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint a representative to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council. **CSBA Position: No Position**

**AB 2765** (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach) would **require the payment of prevailing wages for any work done under private contract on a project for a charter school** when the project is paid for, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of conduit revenue bonds (a type of financing used by charter schools since they do not issue general obligation bonds) that were issued on or after Jan. 1, 2021. **CSBA Position: No Position**

**Senate Bill 729** (Portantino, D-La Cañada Flintridge) would require hiring entities to allow up to **two weeks of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for food service workers** for the duration of any local emergency or state of emergency related to COVID-19. **CSBA Position: No Position**

**SB 793** (Hill, D-San Mateo) would **ban the sale of flavored tobacco products**, including flavored "vaping" products and menthol cigarettes. **CSBA Position: Support**

**SB 855** (Wiener, D-San Francisco) would **require health care service plan contracts or disability insurance policies to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders** under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. **CSBA Position: No Position**

**SB 1130** (Gonzalez, D-Long Beach) would **require the Public Utilities Commission to develop, implement and administer the California Advanced Services Fund program to fund projects that will provide high-capacity, 21st century-ready communications infrastructure** based on current engineering and scientific information. Additionally, the commission would be required to approve projects providing such infrastructure to households in unserved areas. **CSBA Position: Support**

**SB 1159** (Hill, D-San Mateo) would **add COVID-19-related illness or death to the list of on-the-job injuries covered by worker's compensation** until Jan. 1, 2024, for employees generally and until July 1, 2024, for certain peace officers, firefighters and health care workers, among others. The bill would create a disputable presumption that the injury arose out of and in the course of the employment. **CSBA Position: No Position**

Next steps for the Legislature will be to focus almost entirely on bills that are on the Assembly and Senate floors. While there may be committee hearings, most hearing would require a waiving of the rules that govern each house.

There are also issues remaining to be dealt with in an anticipated education budget trailer bill. Foremost in that proposal is a change to the average daily attendance hold harmless that was contained in **SB 98**, the omnibus trailer bill approved in July. In that bill, ADA is held harmless at last February's number as a result of expectations that some parents will be withholding their children from attending school when schools reopen for in-person instruction. However, it became evident, as SB 98 moved, that the hold harmless meant

that districts that are expecting ADA growth would be held at last February ADA numbers as well. The Legislature is expected to address this issue.

Additionally, the effort to address school liability issues is still unresolved as the bill to address liability, **AB 1384 (O'Donnell)**, was denied a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Efforts remain underway in the Legislature and in the Governor's office to engage on the issue before legislators adjourn on Aug. 31.



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