



## Special Legislative Update ■ May 11, 2020

### Western States Pact Sends Plea to Congress

Today, Governor Gavin Newsom released a letter to Congressional leaders authored by governors and legislative leaders from five western states seeking \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to preserve core government services like public health, public safety, and public education. The letter can be accessed [here](#).

### Newsom Hints at Additional Reopening Guidance for the Private Sector

At his noon press conference, Governor Newsom suggested that a new announcement would be forthcoming tomorrow regarding attestations by counties about their capacity to move forward as part of Stage 2, including new guidance regarding additional portions of the business sector. The Governor pledged to continue to work with counties on “health-driven” conversations regarding their interest in moving forward with reopening. “We’re not going to deviate from that path,” the Governor said, although he continued to reiterate his Administration’s openness to discussions with counties across the state.

### Assembly Announces Budget Subcommittee Hearings in Anticipation of May Revision

Today, the Assembly Budget Committee released a [memo](#) outlining its subcommittee hearing plans following the release of the May Revision. The memo recognizes the gravity of the state’s fiscal situation resulting from the pandemic and the extent of the budget solutions that must be sought to close the gaping hole in the state’s budget.

The Assembly budget subcommittee schedule with the area of focus for each hearing is as follows:

Monday, May 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Subcommittee No. 1 – Human Services</li><li>- Subcommittee No. 2 – K-12 and early childhood education</li></ul>
Tuesday, May 19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Subcommittee No. 1 – Health</li><li>- Subcommittee No. 2 – Higher Education</li></ul>
Thursday, May 21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Subcommittee No. 3 – All issues</li><li>- Subcommittee No. 4 – All issues</li></ul>

- Subcommittee No. 5 – All issues
Friday, May 22
- Subcommittee No. 6 – Not specified

The committee indicates that the Assembly plans to convene a broader discussion with its members regarding budget priorities and options for closing the budget gap. It appears the committee has not yet finalized the process or precise timing for this larger discussion, but indicates it intends to release an Assembly Budget Plan by May 29, which will articulate the house's budget priorities and offer a framework for negotiating a final budget agreement with the Senate and the Administration as is required by June 15.

### **Second Round of Reimbursement of County Costs Related to Housing State Prison Inmates**

The Department of Finance has identified \$8.6 million in reimbursement from the state's emergency appropriation measure authorized in mid-March to cover counties' costs associated with housing state prison inmates during the temporary stoppage of intake into the state's detention facilities. This second round of funding is in addition to the \$5.7 million previously paid to counties in early April for this same purpose.

### **Additional Resources for Public Health Work on Contact Tracing**

The Department of Finance requested additional SB 89 funding from the Legislature to support state and local public health work on contact tracing. In a [letter](#) dated May 8, the Department requests:

- \$8.7 million for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to support the development of a virtual training academy to train new staff to augment existing local public health staff for the purpose of contact tracing. UCSF and UCLA will be developing the curriculum, which will primarily be offered online. The online training will be provided to all local health departments at no cost.
- \$18.7 million for CDPH for contracts to support the development of a data management platform to support contact tracing workforce. Under the contracts, Accenture will launch a contact tracing technology platform developed by Salesforce and run a contact tracing call center in collaboration with Amazon. Massachusetts has implemented the same system. The platform will be provided to all local health departments at no cost.

DOF notes that many of the costs initially funding contact tracing will be reimbursed by the federal COVID-19 stimulus funds that are available for testing and contact tracing.