



## Special Legislative Update ■ June 15, 2020

### Houses Pass Budget Bill and Two Consensus Trailer Bills; Work Continues on Rest

Today the Assembly and Senate both approved SB 74, a 2020-21 budget bill that reflects the bicameral spending plan announced last week. The bill will be sent to the Governor for his review, and the Legislature presumably has met its constitutional obligation to pass a budget bill by today's deadline. As we noted in our Friday update, all parties acknowledge that additional negotiations among legislative leaders and the Administration must be had before a comprehensive state budget package can be put to bed. With the Assembly scheduled to leave town on Friday for a three-week summer recess, substantial progress will need to be achieved within the next 24 hours (given the 72-hour in print rule) if the Legislature intends to wrap up work on the state's spending plan this week. Some Capitol observers have suggested that the Assembly may indeed need to delay its departure and thereby shorten its planned break.

The budget bill and trailer bills approved today include:

Bill No.	Topic
<a href="#">SB 74</a>	Budget Act of 2020
<a href="#">AB 76</a>	Education finance (2019-20 actions)
<a href="#">AB 85</a>	State taxes and charges

At his noon press conference today to discuss the state's re-opening efforts, the Governor was asked about the status of state budget negotiations with legislative leaders. He responded by saying they were in the "throes of negotiations" and that he did not want to impact the process by commenting further. He acknowledged that budget negotiations were "challenging" and that this was a "trying time." In separate commentary today, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins made clear her goal of wrapping up the budget by July 1. We will continue to keep you apprised on budget developments in the days ahead.

### Governor Assesses Progress Toward Reopening at Noon Press Conference

The Governor's noon press event was focused on making the case for the continued reopening of California's economy, discussing in detail a number of indicators that the Administration is monitoring. He made the following points about statewide data:

- While COVID testing has increased, the percent of positive cases has flattened to a rate of approximately 4.5%. California is performing upwards of 60,000 tests a day.
- The spread rate of COVID-19 is generally stable.
- Hospitalizations remain stable; over a 14-day period, the number of people in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) was flat.
- There are 3,103 COVID-19 positive patients in hospitals, accounting for approximately 6% of the hospital bed surge capacity.
- There are 1,053 COVID-19 positive patients in ICU beds, which is less than 28% of the ICU bed capacity statewide.

The Governor noted that the Administration is engaging 13 counties that have been showing negative COVID-19 trends in recent days and need additional support to control the spread of the coronavirus or provide treatment. According to the Governor, the state is providing technical assistance, and human and physical resources in those 13 counties. (Information on county monitoring data is updated regularly [here](#).)

The California Department of Public Health has not released a complete list of the 13 counties. However, counties identified by the state today included Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura counties. Sacramento County was identified as a county being monitored by the state in press articles last week.

Dr. Ghaly also discussed some of the statewide data that shows a disproportionate impact of the disease on certain racial groups. Latino individuals represent a higher number of the statewide cases than the proportion of Latinos in the general population. Dr. Ghaly is interested in additional testing and contact tracing data for Latino individuals. Additionally, African American individuals have higher death rates relative to both the number of cases and to their share of the population. Dr. Ghaly noted that African American individuals are showing up for testing much later – and likely much sicker by that point – than other populations.

The Governor also talked about other state initiatives related to COVID-19, including Project Roomkey, efforts to mitigate impacts in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), and state contact tracing efforts.

### **Governor Appoints New DHCS Director**

The Governor announced today the appointment of Will Lightbourne as the new director at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Mr. Lightbourne was most recently director of the California Department of Social Services, where he served from 2011 to 2018 until his retirement. Prior to that he was director of the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency (2000-2011), executive director of the Human Services Agency for the City and County of San Francisco (1996-2000), and director of the Santa Cruz County Human Services Agency (1990-1996). He replaces Dr. Bradley Gilbert at DHCS, who announced his departure earlier this month.