



TO: State Association of County Retirement Systems
FROM: Cara Martinson, Public House Consulting
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RE: **Legislative Update – April 2025**

With just under four months remaining in the 2025-26 Legislative Session, both Houses of the Legislature are fully engaged with budget and policy committees. Legislatively, we have successfully met the first two key deadlines: bill introduction and the substantive language deadline. The latter refers to the hundreds of bills introduced as "spot" or "intent" bills, which have had their language amended sufficiently to be referred to policy committees. The next major deadline is the May 2nd House of Origin deadline where all bills must pass through their respective policy committees in the first house. Meanwhile, budget subcommittees continue to review and consider budget items in anticipation of the Governor's May Revision. The budget outlook remains uncertain due to the loss, or potential loss, of critical federal funding and programs, in addition to ongoing recovery efforts in Los Angeles following the wildfires.

In an effort to strengthen SACRS' relationships with key legislators and stakeholders, the SACRS lobbying team and SACRS Legislative Committee Chair have met with Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Chair Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Chair Tina McKinnor, and Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, a member of the Committee. The SACRS lobbying team has also engaged with representatives from CSAC and the California Professional Firefighters on various legislative matters. These meetings will continue to advance SACRS' expertise and visibility in the Capitol and with our partners.

SACRS is tracking the following bills:

Legislation:

- **ACA 2 (Jackson)** –seeks to reinstate retirement for State Legislators. ACA 2 would establish a retirement system specifically for legislators elected or serving from November 1, 2010 onward. To qualify, legislators would be required to serve at least 10 years. If their service is less than 10 years, legislators could transfer their accumulated service credits to another public pension or retirement system they are a part of. Status: Status: This bill has yet to be referred to a policy committee.
- **AB 259 (Rubio)** –would remove the 2026 sunset on existing laws governing teleconferencing procedures for public meetings. This bill is sponsored the CA



Special District's Association (CSDA). Status: This bill will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/9.

- **AB 339 (Ortega)** – would require the governing body of a public agency to give a recognized employee organization no less than 120 days' written notice before issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending an existing contract to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization. Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly PERS Committee on 3/17 and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 340 (Ahrens)** – would establish an employee-union representative privilege in the context of California public employment. Specifically, the bill would prohibit a public agency employer from questioning any employee or employee representative regarding communications made in confidence between an employee and an employee representative in connection with representation relating to any matter within the scope of the recognized employee organization's representation. Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly PERS Committee on 3/19 and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 409 (Arambula)** – would delete the 2026 sunset on existing laws governing teleconferencing procedures for California Community College student body associations and student-run community college organizations. Status: This bill will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/9.
- **AB 467 (Fong)** – extends the sunset date from 2026 to 2031 for teleconferencing procedures for neighborhood councils, defined as an advisory body with the purpose to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to the Brown Act. Status: This bill will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on 4/9.



- **AB 569 (Stefani)** – This bill would authorize a public employer to bargain over contributions for supplemental retirement benefits administered by, or on behalf of, an exclusive bargaining representative of one or more of the public employer’s bargaining units. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee.

- **AB 814 (Schiavo)**– This bill excludes from gross income, under the Personal Income Tax (PIT) Law, peace officer retirement pay and amounts received by the beneficiary of an annuity plan set up for the surviving spouse or dependent of a person that lost their life in services as a peace officer. Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee on 3/21 and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

- **AB 1054 (Gipson)** – This bill would establish the Deferred Retirement Option Program as a voluntary program within PERS for employees of State Bargaining Units 5 (Highway Patrol) and 8 (Firefighters). The bill would require these state bargaining units to bargain with the Department of Human Resources to implement the program. The bill would also require the program to result in a cost savings or be cost neutral. The bill would further require the department to work with the board of PERS to develop the program. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee.

- **AB 1067 (Quirk-Silva)** - This bill would require a public employer that is investigating a public employee for misconduct, to continue the investigation even if the public employee retires while under investigation. The bill would require a public employer, if the investigation indicates that the public employee may have committed a crime, to refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Under the bill, if a felony conviction results arising out of any conduct arising out of or in the performance of the public employee’s official duties, the public employee would forfeit all accrued rights and benefits in any public retirement system. Status: This bill has not yet been referred to a policy committee.

- **AB 1323 (Chen)** – This bill would authorize an increased compensation rate from \$100 to not more than \$320 per meeting for members of the Orange County Retirement Board. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee.



- **AB 1383 (McKinnor)** – This bill, on and after January 1, 2026, would require a retirement system to adjust pensionable compensation limits to be consistent with a defined benefit limitation established and annually adjusted under federal law with respect to tax exempt qualified trusts. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee.
- **AB 1439 (Garcia)** – This bill would prohibit the board of a public pension or retirement system from making any additional or new investments of public employee pension or retirement funds in development projects in California or providing financing for those projects with public employee pension or retirement funds unless those projects include labor standards protections. The bill would provide that a board is not required to take action pursuant to this provision unless it determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board’s fiduciary responsibilities established in the California Constitution. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly PERS Committee.
- **SB 239 (Arreguín)** – allows flexibility for remote meetings of local advisory bodies (“subsidiary bodies” in the language of the bill). Specifically, this bill would allow a subsidiary body of a local agency to teleconference their meetings without having to publicly notice or make all locations publicly available. This bill is nearly identical to last year’s AB 817, which stalled in the Senate Local Government Committee. Status: The bill will be heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on 4/2.
- **SB 301 (Grayson)** – This bill, beginning on or after January 1, 2026, would prohibit a city or district that contracts with a retirement system under CERL from amending their contract with the system in a manner that provides for the exclusion of some, but not all, employees. Status: This bill is awaiting Committee referral.
- **SB 443 (Rubio)** - This bill would also authorize a joint powers authority (JPA) to offer defined benefit plans or formulas to a member agency that is a non-founding member of the Joint Powers Authority, for employees who are not new members under PEPR and are employed by the joint powers authority within 180 days of the agency becoming a member agency. Status: This bill



- passed out of the Senate PERS Committee and has now been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **SB 707 (Durazo)** - This bill would require a city council or a county board of supervisors to comply with additional open meeting requirements, including that all open and public meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way telephonic option or a two-way audiovisual platform, require agendas to be provided in English and in all other languages spoken jointly by 20% or more of the population in the county, revise and recast alternative teleconferencing provisions for local meetings to uniformly apply certain noticing, accessibility, and public commenting provisions. Status: This bill has been set for hearing on 4/2 in the Senate Local Government Committee.
 - **SB 827 (Gonzalez)** - This bill would expand which local agency officials are required to complete ethics training to include any managerial-level employee with responsibility over the agency's finances and would instead require officials who commence service on or after January 1, 2026, to receive their initial training within 6 months of commencing service. The bill would require additional training for local agency officials if the agency provides compensation for legislative bodies. Status: This bill is awaiting referral to a policy committee.

Contact:

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