



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 27, 2025
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m
Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, Academy 2

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions

Speakers: Chair, Stephanie Youngblood, Council Member, Loomis
Vice Chair, Scott Nassif, Mayor, Apple Valley

II. Public Comment

III. Legislative Review

Action

- AB 992 (Irwin), SB 385 (Seyarto) – Law Enforcement Education (*Attachment A*)
- AB 75 (Calderon) – Insurance (*Attachment B*)

IV. 2025 Wildfires Update (*Attachment C*)

Informational

V. Legislative and Budget Update

Informational

VI. CARE Court Presentation

Speakers: Molly Wiltshire, Director of External Affairs, Governor's Office
Dr. Karen Linkins, Principal, Desert Vista Consulting

VII. Adjourn

Next Virtual Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A list of all the Cal Cities Public Safety bills can be found [here](#).

Brown Act Reminder: The League of California Cities' Board of Directors has a policy of complying with the spirit of open meeting laws. Generally, off-agenda items may be taken up only if:

1) Two-thirds of the policy committee members find a need for immediate action exists and the need to take action came to the attention of the policy committee after the agenda was prepared (Note: If fewer than two-thirds of policy committee members are present, taking up an off-agenda item requires a unanimous vote); or

2) A majority of the policy committee finds an emergency (for example: work stoppage or disaster) exists.

A majority of a city council may not, consistent with the Brown Act, discuss specific substantive issues among themselves at League meetings. Any such discussion is subject to the Brown Act and must occur in a meeting that complies with its requirements.



Public Safety Policy Committee Legislative Agenda

Staff: Jolena Vooris, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
Zack Cefalu, Legislative Affairs and Policy Analyst

1. [AB 992](#) (Irwin) Peace Officers and [SB 385](#) (Seyarto) Peace Officers

Bill Summaries:

These bills would require police officers hired on or after specified dates to obtain specified college degrees including a degree in modern policing, within 36 months of obtaining their basic certificate from Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Both bills provide exemptions to this education requirement for officers enrolled in a POST academy or those already working as a peace officers in California prior to the specific date beginning the requirements.

Bills Description:

Current law mandates the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with law enforcement agencies (to include administration and employees) representatives of the California State University system, and community organizations, to create a modern policing degree program and submit an implementation report to the Legislature. The report is to identify courses pertinent to law enforcement and develop necessary critical thinking and emotional intelligence skills.

This coalition was instructed to provide allowances for prior law enforcement experience, appropriate work experience, postsecondary experiences, or military experience to satisfy a portion or all of the employment education requirement. Current also establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to approve educational criteria for peace officers based on the report.

AB 992 (Irwin) would repeal the requirement for POST to approve and adopt the educational criteria from the report to the Legislature, make require peace officers to meet this requirement within two years of the report's submission. The measure would instead require, commencing January 1, 2031, a police officer to attain one or more specified degrees within 36 months of receiving their basic certificate from the POST Commission. Peace officers currently enrolled in the basic POST academy or working as a California peace officer prior to December of 2030 are exempt from this education requirement.

Specified degrees are as follows:

- Associates degree from a California community college
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- A modern policing degree
- A professional policing certificate

- Education requirements may also be waived if the officer has:
 - 2 years military experience with an honorable discharge
 - 2 years prior policing experience in another state with good standing

Modern Policing degrees must meet the following criteria:

- Requires no more than 60 units
- Awards credits for required commission-certified academy course instruction
- Includes only course from the following list:
 - Communications
 - Psychology
 - Writing
 - Ethics
 - Criminal justice

Professional Policing Certificates must meet the following criteria:

- Requires no more than 15 units
- Includes only course from the following list:
 - Communications
 - Psychology
 - Writing
 - Ethics
 - Criminal justice

SB 385 (Seyarto) is very similar in that it also proves that law enforcement officers have 36 months to obtain a modern policing degree or equivalent degrees, with a slightly expedited timeline. This bill requires that any peace officer hired on or after January 1, 2029, to attain a modern policing degree from a California Community College, or a bachelor's or other advanced degree from an accredited college within 36 months of the beginning of their employment as a peace officer. This bill also contains an urgency clause which would allow the bill to take effect immediately upon signature. This educational requirement would not apply to any person enrolled in the basic academy or employed as a peace officer as of December 31, 2028.

Background:

In 2021, AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) was chaptered and made several changes which raised the minimum age requirement for peace officers and required the POST Commission, along with educational stakeholders, to develop a modern policing degree program. AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) increased the qualifying age for peace officers from 18 to 21 years old and tasked the POST Commission to work with the Office of the Chancellor of California Community Colleges, as well as representatives of the California State University system and community organizations, to create a modern policing degree program. This coalitions were required to submit an implementation report with their recommendations to the Legislature by June 2023. Cal Cities was in support of AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer).

The report was to identify courses pertinent to law enforcement and develop necessary critical thinking and emotional intelligence skills and include recommendations to adopt

financial assistance for students from historically underserved or disadvantaged communities with barriers to higher education access.

The [2023 Modern Policing Degree Task Force Report](#) recommended the establishment of a modern policing degree which would be an Associate's degree offered at California Community Colleges or a bachelor's degree in a discipline of their choosing to be the minimum educational requirements for peace officers. The Task Force recommended the degree program focus on courses pertinent to law enforcement, such as psychology, law, communications, history, ethnic studies, and other courses that will develop critical thinking skills, increase officer emotional intelligence, and decrease use of force. The Task Force recommended the following topics be covered in the curriculum:

- Sociology or Social Psychology
- History of Policing
- Racial and Cultural Diversity
- Social Justice
- Interpersonal and Cultural Communications
- Statistics or Introduction to Statistics for Sociology
- Policing in the Community
- Community and the Justice System
- Ethical Reasoning/Ethic in Practice
- Introduction to Logic
- Introduction to Crime
- Introduction to Transformational Policing
- Introduction to Critical Thinking
- Emotional Intelligence
- Health and Wellness/Mental Health

AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) required POST to adopt these education criteria as the minimum requirement for peace officers to attain within two years of the report's submission.

Similarly, AB 1839 (Alanis) from the 2024 legislative session built off AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) and sought to establish two grant programs to benefit law enforcement education attainment and hiring. Cal Cities was in support of this measure, but it was held in Assembly Appropriations committee. One of the grant programs the bill proposed to create the Law Enforcement Officer Grant Program which would provide one-time grants of up to \$6,000 per academic year (with a cap of \$18,000) to students who are enrolled in a modern policing degree program and commit to working as a peace officer for 4 years.

In the same 2024 session, SB 1122 (Seyarto) clarified that a bachelor's or associate degree required for employment as a peace officers may be obtained after completion of the POST Academy and within 36 months of employment as a peace officer. The bill's intent was to add flexibility to the education requirement to allow for officers to secure a law enforcement career prior to the attainment of either an associate or bachelor's degree to help with the recruitment of officers during the current policing shortage. SB 1122 (Seyarto) died after being held in the Assembly last August, and Cal Cities held a "watch" position on the bill.

A 2017 national study of 958 police agencies found that 30.2% of peace officers had a four-year college degree and 51.8% had a two-year college degree¹. Another 2016 study by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice found that college educated peace officers have exhibited enhanced communication skills, have fewer use of force incidents, received fewer complaints, and had overall heightened job performance².

Existing Cal Cities Policy:

Cal Cities has the following guiding policy on police education:

Cal Cities supports resources for increased training and education for first responders to serve people living with mental illness or experiencing substance use disorders, as well as increased multidisciplinary collaboration.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact to cities and police departments should be minimal and absorbable as there is no mandate cities or police agencies pay for the education requirement.

Staff Comments:

This measure is a continuation of increasing the standards of employment for peace officers in California that has been ongoing since 2021. Cal Cities has supported two previous bills, both AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) and AB 1839 (Alanis) related to increasing education requirements and providing funding for officers to do so.

Since there are several legislative bills, staff would recommend adopting policy as follows:

Cal Cities supports the modern policing degree requirements as long as there is flexibility regarding complying with this new mandate. Cal Cities supports efforts to recruit and retain peace officers and supports efforts to provide additional training and funding to achieve this goal.

Support:

There are no organizations registered in support yet. However, AB 992 is sponsored by the Police Chiefs.

Opposition:

There are no organizations registered in opposition yet.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Public Safety Policy Committee discuss the bills and come to a decision on Cal Cities position.

¹ Christie Gardiner, Policing Around the Nation: Education, Philosophy, and Practice, accessed March 19, 2025, https://www.policinginstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/PF-Report-Policing-Around-the-Nation_10-2017_Final.pdf.

² Ben Stickle, A national examination of the effect of education, training ..., 2016, https://www.cjcj.org/media/import/documents/jpj_education_use_of_force.pdf.

Committee Recommendation:

Board Action:



Public Safety Policy Committee Legislative Agenda

Staff: Jolena Voorhis, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
Zack Cefalu, Legislative Affairs and Policy Analyst

AB 75 (Calderon) Residential Property Insurance Images

Bill Summary:

This measure would require insurance companies that are using aerial footage to provide a 30-day notice to homeowners prior to the footage being taken.

Bill Description:

This measure would require that an admitted insurer notify a residential property insurance policyholder if any aerial images will be taken of the insured property by, on behalf of, or in service of the insurer. The policyholder shall receive the notice at least 30 days in advance of the day that the images will be taken.

AB 75 provides that this subdivision shall not apply if a claim has been submitted or is pending on the property, provided any aerial images taken of the insured property are used only for the purpose of evaluating the submitted or pending claim.

This measure also provides that an admitted insurer shall provide any aerial images taken or obtained of the insured property to the policyholder upon request.

Background:

The insurance crisis in California continues to plague homeowners, businesses and many are forced to obtain insurance from the FAIR plan due to the lack of insurance available in high fire severity zones.

In 2024, Insurance Commissioner Lara proposed and finalized regulations to provide more certainty in the insurance market. The Catastrophe Modeling regulations were finalized in December 2024 and allow insurance companies to use catastrophe modeling, which is long term forecasting to determine rates, but insurance companies are also required to write insurance policies in the distressed areas of the state. Distressed areas are those counties with a high percentage of homeowners under the FAIR plan and those jurisdictions that are high fire severity zones. While these were just enacted, insurance companies have indicated their willingness to again write policies under this new construct.

In January, California experienced devastating wildfires in Los Angeles County which resulted in over 16,000 structures being destroyed, claimed 29 lives, and burned over 37,000 acres. It has been reported that a large majority of those impacted in the Palisades

fire were recently cancelled by their insurance company and had to enroll in the FAIR Plan.

Often when a homeowner receives a cancellation the insurance company has used drone footage to request various changes, including roof hardening and wildfire mitigation or the homeowner will be cancelled.

Existing Cal Cities Policy

Cal Cities has policies on wildfire mitigation and supports homeowners' ability to obtain insurance.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact to cities.

Staff Comments:

This bill is one of several measures to place more restrictions on insurance companies using aerial or drone footage to determine insurance coverage.

Support:

There are no organizations registered in support.

Opposition:

There are no organizations registered in opposition.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Public Safety Policy Committee discuss AB 75 and make a recommendation on Cal Cities position.

Committee Recommendation:

Board Action:

Legislative Update on Wildfire Legislation

Wildfires

The Legislature and the Governor continue to make wildfire prevention, mitigation, and recovery a priority in 2025.

Detailed below are the identified top priority wildfire bills for Cal Cities in both houses, as well as the legislative package sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Lara. As the legislative session continues, and spot bills are amended this list will continue to grow and is not to be considered final and exclusive of other wildfire bills.

AB 1 (Connolly) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.

This measure would require the Department of Insurance to include wildfire mitigation in the next draft of the Catastrophe Modeling regulations.

Cal Cities Position: Support

AB 261 (Quirk-Silva) Fire safety: Fire Hazard Severity Zones: State Fire Marshal.

This measure would allow the State Fire Marshal to confer with entities on the development of the fire hazard severity zone designations between periodic reviews of the maps being updated.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

AB 262 (Caloza) California Individual Assistance Act.

This measure would establish the California Individual Assistance Act under the Office of Emergency Services to distribute funding to local agencies, community-based organizations, and individuals with assistance following a disaster. This measure's intent is to quickly provide assistance to California residents following the declaration of a local or state emergency that may not warrant federal disaster assistance for individuals.

Cal Cities Position: Sponsor/Support

AB 265 (Caloza) Small Business Recovery Act Fund.

This measure would create the Small Business Recovery Fund Act, with \$100 million from the General Fund, to support small businesses and nonprofits affected by a state of emergency.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Support

AB 300 (Lackey) Fire Hazard Severity Zones: State Fire Marshal.

This measure would require fire hazard severity zone maps to be updated every five years.

Cal Cities Position: Watch

AB 846 (Connolly) Endangered Species: Incidental Take: Wildfire Preparedness Activities.

This measure would create a voluntary streamlined approach to streamline any necessary environmental permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Cal Cities Position: Sponsor/Support

AB 888 (Calderon) California Safe Homes Grant Program

This measure would create the California Safe Homes Grant Program which would provide funding to individuals, cities, counties and special districts for roof hardening and home hardening.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Support

A full list of all 2025 wildfire legislation Cal Cities is tracking can be viewed [here](#).

Insurance Commissioner Lara/ California department of Insurance Sponsored Legislation Package

Insurance Commissioner Lara and the Department of Insurance issued a press release on February 14th on a sponsored legislation package focused on wildfire mitigation and recovery.

AB 1 (Connolly) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.

This measure would require the Department of Insurance to include wildfire mitigation in the next draft of the Catastrophe Modeling regulations.

Cal Cities Position: Support

AB 226 (Calderon) California FAIR Plan Association

This measure aims to strengthen consumer safeguards by allowing the FAIR Plan to access catastrophic bonds through the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank. This provision would add an extra layer of financial support for the state's insurer of last resort, enabling it to continue paying consumer claims promptly in the event of a worst-case disaster.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

AB 232 (Calderon) Natural Disasters: Catastrophe Savings Accounts: Personal Income Tax

This measure would, until January 1, 2030, authorize a homeowner to create a catastrophe savings account to cover the amount of insurance deductibles and other uninsured losses from natural disasters declared by the Governor to be an emergency. Contributions to the catastrophe savings account would be tax deductible.

Cal Cities Position: Watch

AB 597 (Harabedian) Public Insurance Adjusters

This measure enhancing regulations between public insurance adjusters and policyholders to provide more transparency in their contract terms and services to policyholders. This measure would establish a 15% cap on fees for adjuster-contracted work.

Cal Cities Position: Watch

AB 637 (Flora) Advertising: False or Misleading Commercial Disaster Communication

This measure would make it unlawful for any person to issue or disseminate false or misleading commercial disaster communication. Potential false or misleading communications, under this measure, would not be deemed false or misleading if certain disclosures were included, in addition to the name and organization

disseminating the communication. These communication requirements would be in place on the date of and 60 days after a declared state of emergency.

Cal Cities Position: Watch

AB 888 (Calderon) California Safe Homes Grant Program

This measure would create the California Safe Homes Grant Program which would provide funding to individuals, cities, counties and special districts for roof hardening and home hardening.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Support

SB 547 (Renee Perez) Commercial Property Insurance Cancellation and Nonrenewal

This measure would extend the prohibition against cancellation or nonrenewal of policies to commercial properties. The moratorium would be extended to commercial businesses and prevent cancellation or nonrenewal for a year after a state of emergency for properties near the disaster area.

Cal Cities Position: Watch

SB 616 (Rubio) Community Hardening Commission: wildfire mitigation program

This measure would require the joint power authority between the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to revise the wildfire mitigation program with prescribed community hardening standards and guidelines.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

California Office of Emergency Services

Cal Cities had been in regular attendance on daily briefing calls hosted by the Office of Emergency Services since the start of the wildfire. These calls bring together a coalition of state agencies to initially provide updates on the extent of the fire damage and containment. Since the extinguishing of the wildfires these calls have transitioned to updates about the recovery and rebuilding of the regions affected. Below are the latest updates:

- The FEMA Individual Assistance Program has seen a total of 270,396 applications, with a total approved funding amount of \$95 million to date. The Small Businesses Administration launched a zero to low interest low program for homeowners and small business owners affected by the fires. This program has approved a total of 7,028 applications, with a total approved amount of \$1.88 billion.
- Over 1,300 survivors have been approved for 2-months of rental coverage assistance from their insurers.
- FEMA's Transitional Shelter Program currently has 464 households housed in hotels.
- Over 5,588 rights of entry have been received and transmitted to the Army Corps of Engineers. FEMA reported that 465 parcels (247 in Eaton and 218 in Palisades) have now completed Phase 2 Debris Clean-up and the right of entry has been given back to the Los Angeles County on those parcels.
- Originally there were 9 impacted water systems that issued a Do-Not-Drink order to its customers due to fire impacts on water service connections. The Las Flores Water Company is the only remaining water system left with a Do-Not-Drink order which is currently affecting 3,956 customers in Eaton. The water company is

working to repair its system damages and is analyzing water quality to ensure safe standards are met prior to lifting its order.

- Two Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are located in LA County to help residents affected by the wildfires continue their recovery.
 - DRC 1 is located UCLA Research Park West at 10850 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA, 90064.
 - DRC 2 is located in Altadena at 540 W. Woodbury Rd., Altadena, CA, 91001.
 - State Agencies available at the DRCs are:
 - Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
 - Employment Development Department (EDD)
 - California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
 - Franchise Tax Board (FTB)
 - California Department of Insurance (CDI)
 - Contractors State License Board (CSLB)
 - California Department of Tax & Fee Administration (CDTFA)
 - California Department of Public Health (CDPH) – Vital Records
 - California Department of Veterans Affairs (Cal Vet)
 - California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)