

# 2019 Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar: Legislative Update

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## By the Numbers: 2019 Legislative Statistics

- California Legislature's Political Make-Up
  - Senate: 29 Democrats, 11 Republicans
  - Assembly: 61 Democrats, 19 Republicans
- Approximately 2,600 bills introduced, a roughly 20% increase from 2018.
- \$215 Billion State Budget signed into law in June 2019 (the largest in state history)
- 1042 bills passed out of the Legislature
- *870 bills signed into law*
- 172 bills vetoed

## Support for Firefighters & First Responders

### **AB 1116 (Grayson) Firefighters: Peer Support**

- Authorizes a Peer Support Program to provide employee support and referral services
- Exempts emergency service personnel who provide peer support services from liability, unless the act, error, or omission constitutes gross negligence or intentional misconduct.
- Exemption does not apply to an action for medical malpractice.

### **SB 542 (Stern) Workers' Compensation**

- Creates a presumption that PTSD is a job-related condition if diagnosed for a firefighter or peace officer, and adopts a 5-year sunset clause on the presumption.
- The employee must have been employed for 6 months to qualify for the presumptions, except if the triggering event is a sudden and extraordinary employment condition.

## Emergency Telephone and Communications

### **SB 96 (Budget) 911 Upgrades: Surcharge**

- Imposes a monthly surcharge of not greater than \$0.80 per access line to fund the current fiscal year's 911 system related costs.
- Imposes a surcharge for prepaid mobile telephony services at the rate equal to the monthly surcharge amount per access line.
- Authorizes the amounts deposited into the State Emergency Telephone Number Account (SETNA) to be spent on 911 systems, including, but not limited to, Next Generation 911 technology, and interface upgrades for the caller to submit voice and data information, including texts and video, to the emergency responder.

## Emergency Telephone and Communications

### **AB 956 (Diep) Telecommunications: Auto-dialer Exemption**

Authorizes public safety agencies to place calls through automatic dialing-announcing devices for the purposes of testing all modes of 911 emergency telephone systems.

### **AB 1079 (Santiago) Telecommunications: Privacy Protections**

Authorizes public safety agencies to test the systems that respond to 911 calls or communicate threats to life or property on unpublished or unlisted telephone numbers without first obtaining the subscriber's express consent.

### **AB 1168 (Mullin) Emergency Services: Text to 911**

Requires each public safety answering point (PSAP), by January 2021, to deploy a text to 911 service that allows an individual to text "911" for emergency services that is capable of accepting either Short Message Service (SMS) messages or Real-Time Text (RTT) messages.

## Emergency Telephone and Communications

### **AB 1699 (Levine) Telecommunications: Mobile Internet Service Providers**

Prohibits a mobile internet service provider from impairing or degrading the lawful internet traffic of first response agencies during an emergency.

### **SB 670 (McGuire) Telecommunications: Community Isolation Outage**

- Requires telecommunications service providers to notify the Office of Emergency Services (OES) when a community isolation outage impacting 911 calls or emergency notifications occurs
- Makes OES responsible for notifying the appropriate county offices of emergency services, public safety answering points (PSAPs) and sheriffs for areas affected by an outage.

## Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation & Safety

### **AB 38 (Wood) Fire Safety: Low Cost Retrofits**

- Requires specified disclosures for the sale of real property in a high or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) related to fire safety including home hardening and defensible space.
- Requires OES to enter into a joint powers agreement with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal FIRE) to develop and administer a comprehensive wildfire mitigation program to provide financial assistance to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings and facilitate vegetation management.
- Requires the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal (SFM) and the Forest Management Task Force, to review regional capacity of each county that contains a VHFHSZ.

## Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation & Safety

### **SB 99 (Nielsen) General Plans: Emergency Evacuations Routes**

Requires the safety element of the general plan, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2020, to identify any residential developments in any hazard area that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.

## Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation & Safety

### **SB 167 (Dodd) Electrical Corporations: Wildfire Mitigation Plans**

- Requires electrical corporations to include additional information as part of the protocols for de-energizing portions of their distribution system within their wildfire mitigation plans filed at the CPUC.
- Requires electrical corporations to have protocols for de-energization impacts on public safety and customers who are receiving medical baseline allowances.
- Authorizes electrical corporations to deploy and provide financial assistance for backup electrical resources for medical baseline customers who demonstrate a financial need.

## Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation & Safety

### **SB 190 (Dodd) Fire Safety: Defensible Space Program**

Requires the State Fire Marshall (SFM), in consultation with specified local agencies and other interests, to develop a model defensible space program for use by a city or county in the enforcement of the defensible space provisions in current law.

### **SB 209 (Dodd) Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration**

Requires OES and CAL FIRE to jointly establish the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center.

## Emergency Medical Services

### **AB 453 (Chau) EMS Training: Persons with Dementia**

Requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), as part of its requirement to develop training standards for Emergency Medical Technicians, to include a component on how to interact effectively with persons with dementia and their caregivers.

### **AB 651 (Grayson): Air Ambulance Services**

Limits a patient's payment for services provided by an air ambulance service provider to in-network cost-sharing such as deductibles and co-pays.

### **AB 1705 (Bonta) Medi-Cal: Emergency Transportation Services**

Requires, by July 1, 2021, a new Medi-Cal Public Provider Intergovernmental Transfer Program (IGT) for public ambulance providers that provides additional payments to these providers in fee-for-service (FFS) Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal managed care plans.

## Emergency Medical Services

### **SB 438 (Hertzberg) Emergency Medical Services: Dispatch**

- Expressly authorizes a public safety agency (PSA) to deploy emergency response resources within its jurisdiction.
- Prohibits a PSA from contracting with a private entity for 911 call processing of emergency dispatch services, with specified exceptions.
- Requires a PSA that provides 911 call processing services for EMS to make a connection available from the PSA dispatch center to an EMS provider's dispatch center for the timely transmission of emergency response information.



Questions?

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