



# Legislative Update

California Federation  
of Teachers  
AFT, AFL-CIO  


July 13, 2017

## Introduction

The California Federation of Teachers successfully passed three of its four sponsored pieces of legislation out of the Senate Education Committee. In addition, CFT was able to pass an education technology concurrent resolution out of the legislature. CFT also helped to secure millions of dollars in appropriations to support the work of its members in the 2017-2018 annual Budget Act which was signed into law by Governor Brown on June 27, 2017.

## CFT SPONSORED BILLS

**For-Profit Charter Schools: Assembly Bill 406 (McCarty)** would, on or after January 1, 2019, prohibit a petitioner that submits a charter school petition for the establishment of a charter school, or a charter school that submits a charter renewal or material revision application, from operating as, or being operated by, a for-profit corporation, a for-profit Education Management Organization (EMO) or a for-profit Charter Management Organization (CMO).

*AB 406 passed off of the Assembly Floor on May 31, 2017 on a 50-24-6 vote. The bill was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on July 12, 2017 but was pulled by the author. It will now become a two-year bill.*

**Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program: Assembly Bill 410 (Cervantes)** would prohibit Local Education Agencies from charging new teachers for their participation in the mandatory Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program. Currently, according to a survey conducted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, at least 12% of providers of the BTSA Program charge new teachers upwards of \$3,350 to participate in this program.

*AB 410 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on June 28, 2017 on a unanimous vote (7-0). The bill was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File on July 10, 2017.*

**Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave for School Employees: Assembly Bill 568 (Gonzalez-Fletcher)** would require certificated and classified school employees to be provided a paid leave when an employee is required to be absent a length of time to be determined by the employee and their doctor or a minimum of six weeks for pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth and recovery.

*AB 568 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on June 21, 2017 with a vote of 4-1-2. The bill was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File on July 10, 2017.*

**School Safety: Assembly Bill 1029 (Weber)** would add one or more individuals with expertise in the social-emotional health of children and youth, including, but not limited to, restorative justice practitioners, community school coordinators or mental health professionals to school safety planning committees. In addition, AB 1029 would require the comprehensive school safety plan to be aligned with the school climate state priority and the local control accountability plan. The bill would also require the Department of Education to post on its website models of best practices. Finally, AB 1029 would require the Department of Education to provide technical assistance and professional development to educators and administrators in these practices.

*AB 1029 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on June 28, 2017 on a unanimous vote (7-0). The bill was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File on July 10, 2017.*

**Education Technology: Senate Concurrent Resolution 30 (Pan)** resolves that the legislature recognizes the need for improving the ongoing implementation and use of technology in educational institutions and identifying best practices for technology equipment upgrades.

*SCR 30 passed out of the Assembly Education Committee on a consent vote on June 21, 2017. It then passed off of the Assembly Floor on June 26, 2017 on a consent vote.*

## CFT BUDGET PRIORITIES

The California Federation of Teachers secured major budget victories in the 2017-2018 annual Budget Act. Due to the outstanding lobbying efforts of leadership, members and staff, the CFT was able to secure millions of dollars in appropriations that will benefit CFT members and their students. Significant appropriations in the areas of early childhood education, K-12 education and community colleges were signed into law by Governor Brown on June 27, 2017. Below are brief descriptions of those appropriations.

### Early Childhood Education

In January 2017, the governor proposed to “pause” the 2016-2017 budget agreement that increased the number of full-day state preschool slots by 2,959 and increased the reimbursement rate for providers by 10%. The CFT, in conjunction with numerous education organizations, opposed this proposal. Subsequently, both the Assembly and Senate opposed the governor’s proposal as well. Consequently, the governor removed the proposed “pause” in the May Revision of the budget proposal. The final budget bill signed by the governor restored the additional 2,959 full-day state preschool slots and increased the reimbursement rate by 10% for state preschool and center-based child care providers.

In addition, based upon input from the CFT Early Childhood Committee and ongoing lobbying by the CFT and other education groups, the 2017-2018 budget includes a provision to update the State Median Income (SMI) eligibility requirements for subsidized child care and preschool. The budget also includes a provision to allow parents to remain eligible for subsidized child care and preschool until they reach 85% of SMI.

Finally, the 2017-2018 budget also includes a provision that provides 12-month eligibility, allowing families to receive subsidized care for not less than 12 months prior to having their eligibility re-determined.

### **Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program**

In 2016, the CFT co-sponsored legislation to establish the Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program that was signed into law as part of the annual Budget Act. The 2016-2017 annual Budget Act passed by the legislature and signed by the governor included an appropriation of \$20 million to fund the program. The appropriation is currently providing grants to school districts and county offices of education to provide incentives of up to \$4,000 per year to classified public school employees to obtain their Bachelor's degree and their teaching credential.

Due to the overwhelming demand for participation in this program and CFT's advocacy for it, the legislature approved, and the governor signed into law, a \$25 million increase to fund the program. This brings the total allocation for the program to \$45 million and represents the largest investment by the state of California to address the severe teacher shortage.

### **Community College Part-Time Faculty Office Hours**

Existing law established the Community College Part-Time Faculty Office Hours Program, contingent upon annual Budget Act funding, for the purpose of providing community college students with access to academic advice and assistance and to encourage districts to provide opportunities to compensate those who hold office hours related to their teaching load. The governing board of each district that establishes such a program is required to negotiate with the exclusive bargaining representative (or, if none exists, with the faculty) to establish the program. Participating districts are required to inform the Chancellor's office of the total costs of part-time faculty office hours compensation paid, and the Chancellor's office is required to apportion up to 50% of these costs, to be distributed proportionally based upon each districts' total cost and the total amount provided in the annual Budget Act.

*The legislature approved a \$5 million augmentation of on-going funds for the Community College Part-Time Faculty Office Hours program. This appropriation went into effect on July 1, 2017.*

## **Labor in the Schools Pilot Project**

This budget proposal sought one-time funding for the Teaching about Labor, Immigrant Workers and Workplace Rights Pilot Project. The Assembly Budget Committee proposed to provide \$2.7 million for the three-year pilot program that would have provided training and other resources for lead teachers in various school districts across the state to teach the history of labor, with a focus on immigrant workers, farm labor and workers of color. The Senate had no proposal, so the Budget Conference Committee discussed whether or not to provide \$2.7 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding for the project.

*The Budget Conference Committee did not approve the \$2.7 million allocation of one-time funds for the Labor in the Schools Pilot Project.*

## **CFT CO-SPONSORED BILLS**

**School Employee Housing Assistance Program: Assembly Bill 45 (Thurmond)** would require the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to administer the California School Employee Housing Assistance Program, a pre-development grant and loan program, to fund the creation of affordable housing for school district certificated and classified employees.

*AB 45 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on July 12, 2017 on a 5-2 vote. It will now be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

**Charter School Pupil Admissions, Suspensions and Expulsions: Assembly Bill 1360 (Bonta)** would require that charter school petitions contain a comprehensive description of procedures by which a pupil can be suspended, expelled or otherwise involuntarily removed, dismissed, transferred or terminated from the charter school that includes an explanation of how the charter school will comply with specified federal and state constitutional due process requirements. In addition, AB 1360 would authorize a charter school to encourage parental involvement, but would require the charter school to notify the parents and guardians of applicant students and currently enrolled students that parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at, the charter school.

*AB 1360 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on July 3, 2017 on a unanimous vote (7-0).*

## **CFT PRIORITY SUPPORT BILLS**

**Part-Time Playground Positions: Assembly Bill 670 (Thurmond)** would delete the provision in current law that exempts a person employed in a part-time playground position from the classified service, when the person is not otherwise employed in a classified position, thereby making that person part of the classified service.

*AB 670 passed out of the Senate Labor Committee on July 12, 2017 on a 4-1 vote. It will now be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

**Career Technical Education: Assembly Bill 1577 (Gipson)** would require the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the California Workforce Development Board and the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, to develop a plan to ensure the provision of, and access to, career technical education programs at every K-12 school in the state.

*AB 1577 was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on June 21, 2017 but was pulled by the author.*

**University of California Resident Student Access: Assembly Bill 1674 (Grayson)** would request that the University of California (UC), in collaboration with the Academic Senate of the UC, comply with specific requirements regarding the admission policies of nonresident undergraduate students and report to the legislature annually.

*AB 1674 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on July 5, 2017 on a 6-0-1 vote. It will now be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

**AB 540 Modernization: Senate Bill 68 (Lara)** would allow two years at a California Community College to count towards AB 540 eligibility. Additionally, the bill would allow the completion of an Associate's degree, or satisfaction of the minimum requirements to transfer to the University of California or California State University, in lieu of a high school diploma to allow a student to qualify for in-state tuition and financial aid.

*SB 68 passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee on July 11, 2017 on a 10-2-1 vote. It will now be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

**The Healthy California Act: Senate Bill 562 (Lara)** would create the Healthy California Program to provide comprehensive universal single-payer healthcare coverage and a healthcare cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state. The bill, among other things, would provide that the program cover a wide range of medical benefits and other services and would incorporate the healthcare benefits and standards of other existing federal and state provisions, including, but not limited to, the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medi-Cal, ancillary healthcare or social services covered by the regional centers for persons with developmental disabilities, Knox-Keene and the federal Medicare Program. In addition, the bill would state the intent of the legislature to enact legislation that would develop a revenue plan, taking into consideration anticipated federal revenue available for the Healthy California Program. Finally, SB 562 would create the Healthy California Board to govern the program, made up of 9 members with demonstrated and acknowledged expertise in healthcare.

*SB 562 was held in the Assembly on June 23, 2017.*

## CFT PRIORITY OPPOSE BILLS

**State STEM School: Assembly Bill 1217 (Bocanegra)** would create a new “state school” managed by a private non-profit corporate board to provide STEM education to pupils within a county that has a population of over 3.5 million residents (LA). This bill would create a new hybrid state-level school that mirrors a charter school; however, the school would lack an education agency authorizer. Instead, a seven member board with three members appointed by the UC Regents, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Pro Tempore would manage the charter school with some monitoring by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The rest of the board would be comprised of private individuals.

*AB 1217 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on July 12, 2017 on a 6-1 vote.*

**Teacher Probationary Period: Assembly Bill 1220 (Weber)** would move the current probationary period for teachers employed by a county office of education or a school district from two years to an optional three years. In addition, AB 1220 would require a county superintendent or the governing board of a school district, if a probationary employee is offered a third complete consecutive school year of probationary employment, to develop an individualized improvement plan to assist in addressing the deficiencies identified in the probationary employee’s evaluation, to provide copies of all prior evaluations before the plan meeting and to provide individualized professional development consistent with the plan.

*AB 1220 was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee on July 12, 2017 but was pulled by the author. It will now become a two-year bill.*

## Conclusion

The California Federation of Teachers continues to have success moving our sponsored legislation, budget requests and priority bills through the legislative process. Continued engagement and lobbying on these key issues by our members are critical to moving them to the governor for his signature.

### FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ron Rapp  
Legislative Director  
[rrapp@cft.org](mailto:rrapp@cft.org)  
**916.446.2788**

Tristan Brown  
Legislative Representative  
[tbrown@cft.org](mailto:tbrown@cft.org)

Bryan Ha  
Legislative Representative  
[bha@cft.org](mailto:bha@cft.org)