

CARPD NEWSLETTER/LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Governor Brown Signs Nearly 9 in 10 Bills

Late afternoon on October 13th, with a midnight deadline looming for the Governor to act on the remaining bills on his desk, Governor Brown completed signing or vetoing the last 35 bills awaiting his action. For the 2013 legislative year, Governor Brown signed 1,003 bills, vetoing 96.

Upon completing his work, Governor Brown said: “Those are all big issues, and then on top of that you have the endless desire of the Legislature for more and more activities or interventions or spending or law.”

Presented below are brief summaries and the status of a number of the bills CARPD followed this year:

1. **Assembly Bill 218(Dickinson)**: Effective July 1, 2014, AB 218 prohibits the state and local governments from asking a job applicant to disclose information regarding a criminal conviction, with specific exemptions, until the state or local agency determines that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications for the position. Should the state or local agencies make that determination and move the applicant to the next level in the application process, they may ask the applicant for any and all information relative to the applicant’s criminal convictions. **Status: Signed by the Governor;**

2. **Assembly Bill 265(Gatto):** Provides a public agency that own or operates a dog park with limited liability for injury or death of a person or pet resulting solely from the actions of a dog in a dog park. **Status: Signed by the Governor;**
3. **Assembly Bill 537(Bonta):** AB 537 relates to impasse procedures under the Meyers-Millas-Brown Act and sets forth the meet and confer process for public agencies and recognized employee organization. **Status: Signed by the Governor;**
4. **Assembly Bill 729(Hernandez):** A proposed major expansion of attorney/client privilege, AB 729 proposed to extend evidentiary privileges to public agency union agents representing their employees, denying public agency employers of information here-to-for not protected. **Status: Vetoed by the Governor;**
5. **Assembly Bill 1149(Campos):** AB 1149 expands the existing law covering private sector employers relating to identity theft to public agencies. AB 1149 requires local agencies to disclose any breach of their computer security system that includes individuals personal information and report that breach to any resident of California whose unencrypted personal information that was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by unauthorized persons. **Status: Signed by the Governor;**
6. **Assembly Bill 1235(Gordon):** AB 1235 proposed to require local elected officials to take a total of 4-hours of

financial management training once during their first full term. **Status: Vetoed by the Governor;**

7. **Senate Bill 443(Walters):** Relating to organized camps, SB 443 proposed unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions on recreation and park districts that conduct organized camps by limiting the number of days/hours such camps may be operated. **Status: Senator Walters deferred action on SB 443 late this year and may attempt to resolve opposition issues and move the bill next year;**
8. **Senate Bill 594(Hill):** This gut and amendment late in the legislative year proposed severe restriction on local agencies and non-profits organization relative to political activities, including taking positions and advocating for or against state and/or local ballot measures. In the end, Senator Hill amended SB 594 in a manner that removed all opposition, including CARPD's opposition. **Status: Signed by the Governor;**
9. **Senate Constitutional Amendment #3(Leno):** This constitutional amendment places the California Public Records Act and the Brown Act in the State Constitution, without provisions for reimbursement for compliance with both Acts. SCA #3 also includes any future amendments to either Act. **Status: Will appear on the November 2014 statewide ballot.**

Is Pension Reform Headed to the Ballot?

On October 15th, San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed filed his pension “reform” initiative with the Attorney General’s Office for ballot title and summary, the first step in the initiative process.

According to Mayor Reed, the “Pension Reform Act of 2014” would change California’s constitution to allow the state and local governments to cut pensions for current workers **prospectively**, while the benefits they have already earned would be protected.

Joining Mayor Reed in delivering the initiative to the Attorney General’s Office were San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris, Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido, Pacific Grove Mayor Bill Kampe, and Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait.