



STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Due to California's budget deficit the number of legislation introduced this year in comparison to other years was significantly reduced. Legislation with potential fiscal cost to the state is being closely analyzed and its chances of passing the Legislature are slim. CHIRLA supports legislation that strengthens the civic engagement of immigrants, promote the contributions of immigrants, streamline current resources to assist their integration, and invest in both adult and higher education which helps both immigrants and their children to help our state continue to be one the largest economy in the county. Below is a summary of bills relevant to immigrants that CHIRLA is monitoring this legislative year. If you have any questions, contact Joseph Villela at 213-353-1782.

SUPPORT

LANGUAGE ACCESS

AB 611 (Fong): This bill would require the Secretary of California Emergency Management to consider the multiple languages and needs of populations who have limited proficiency in the English language and to incorporate their needs in the curricula and scenarios related to critical emergency preparedness planning, response, and recovery training.

Status: Scheduled to be heard in Governmental Organization committee in the Senate

AB 1160 (Fong): Seeks to close a loophole in current law by requiring mortgage lenders to provide translated mortgage summary documents to a borrower in the language in which it was negotiated.

Status: Passed policy committee

SB 242 (Yee): Recognizes the diversity and contributions of ethnic groups to our state by making it a violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act to adopt or enforce a policy that limits or prohibits the use of language other than English in a business setting.

Status: Hearing scheduled on June 29 in Assembly Judiciary committee

OPPOSE

RESTRICT ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH

AB 454 (Knight) & AB 1207 (Logue): Would repeal the exemption from paying in-state tuition at the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and University of California system, given to students that have attended high school in California for 3 or more years, and who have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent, including undocumented students.

Status: Both bills failed to pass policy committee

Proof of Identification

AB 1415 (Adams), SB 370 (Runner) & SB 465 (Huff): Among other provisions this proposal sought to force all eligible voters to provide additional proof of their identity. These proposals fail provide meaningful tools to prevent voter fraud. Its unintended consequence is that it would disenfranchise voters due to unintentional errors by voters.

Status: SB 465 (Huff) hearing cancel by committee
AB 1415 (Adams) & SB 370 (Runner) failed to pass policy committee

SUPPORT

AB 663 (Jones): Establishes a pilot project to provide court interpreters in specified civil proceedings, and makes it unlawful for an entity to use the term "legal aid" unless referring to a nonprofit organization providing legal services to the poor without charge.

Status: In suspense file in Assembly appropriations committee

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

AB 1057 (Beall): Seeks to eliminate the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) requirement for Food Stamp-only applicants, and instead, uses Department of Motor Vehicles or other state agency information to verify an applicant's identification and prevent duplicate aid fraud. In addition, the bill moves the Food Stamp and CalWORKs programs recipient income reporting periods from quarterly to semi-annually.

Status: In suspense file in Assembly appropriations committee

SB 1 (Steinberg): Would expand eligibility for the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs by modifying the income requirements applicable to those programs, and by making coverage available regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

Status: Hearing postponed by Senate health committee

AB 1503 (Lieu): Prohibits emergency room physicians from charging uninsured patients more than insured patients and would prohibit uninsured patients from being billed more than Medi-Cal patients.

Status: Passed Assembly floor, moves to Senate

OPPOSE

SB 60 (Cedillo): Would allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses, while implementing the federal REAL ID Act, whose main goal is to make state driver's licenses a badge of immigration status. The driver's licenses that would be given to undocumented immigrants would be marked differently than those given to citizens. In CHIRLA's analysis, this bill does not contain adequate protections against discrimination and racial profiling. Therefore we are opposing this bill unless amended.

Status: In suspense file in Senate appropriations committee

UNDOCUMENTED INMATES

SB 125 (Benoit) & AB 713 (Gaines): Both bills would have forced the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to annually bill the federal government for the costs of incarcerating undocumented inmates. Furthermore, it would have required the Attorney General to utilize all available legal resources to obtain reimbursement if the federal government fails to make payment. Lastly, it would have required the collection of data of the number of undocumented. This bill is unnecessary because California already bills the federal government for this cost. These proposals would also force state employees to determine the immigration status of inmates to compile data collection. This is a preemption of federal law, which establishes that the enforcement of immigration laws is solely the responsibility of the federal government.

Status: SB 125 (Benoit) failed to pass policy committee
AB 713 (Gaines) in suspense file

SUPPORT

WORKER & IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

AB 943 (Mendoza): Prohibit an employer, except for certain financial institutions, from obtaining a consumer credit report for employment purposes. While in some industries and jobs it is important to obtain this personal information, it is not essential for all industries to seek this information and use it as a determination for employment.

Status: Passed Assembly floor, moves to Senate

AB 236 (Swanson): This bill continues the regulation of employment practices of car washes beyond January 1, 2010. This legislation is critical to improve the working conditions in this industry and protects law-abiding employers from unscrupulous employers who take advantage of workers.

Status: Passed Assembly floor, moves to Senate

AB 1000 (Ma): It guarantees that workers have the right to earn paid sick days to care for themselves or a sick family member, or to take leave related to domestic violence or sexual assault.

Status: In suspense file in Assembly appropriations committee

SB 160 (Cedillo): Seeks to provide state financial aid to undocumented students that wish to attend or are currently attending institutions of higher education. Students that have attended secondary schools would also be eligible for in-state tuition and state aid.

Status: In suspense file in Senate appropriations committee