

State Legislative Scorecard Lawmakers Head Off to Recess in July



The 2007 session of the California Legislature is getting close to the nitty-gritty at this point. Many bills are dead, others are in limbo (and likely to die), while many have made the leap from the Senate to the Assembly or vice versa. Whether they will be passed and make it to Governor Schwarzenegger's desk is the next question, followed by whether or not he will sign them. Of course, as the legislature takes a recess in July, we may be held in suspense for a while. Such is the nature of our legislative process.

Following is the status of a number of bills that may be of interest to people with disabilities—most of which *Enabled Voices* have been following to this point.

AB 18 was approved by the Assembly and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It would allow the use of a signature stamp by people with disabilities if they are unable to write.

SB 747 passed from the Senate to the Assembly. It is intended to encourage legislation that increases business compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

AB 238, which would allow In-Home Support Service (IHSS) care providers to be paid for providing reading services for blind and visually impaired recipients, passed from the

Assembly to the Senate, where it is currently being discussed in the Human Services Committee.

SB 633 passed the Senate and is currently in the Assembly's Health Committee. This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature regarding the state's commitment to providing services for persons with disabilities in the most integrated setting.

SB 868 was passed by the Senate and is now in the Assembly. It would allow criminal background checks of certain potential home care providers but would prohibit a fee from being charged to a provider, potential personnel, or a recipient.

AB 14 was passed by the Assembly and is currently in the Senate's Judiciary Committee. The bill would prohibit discrimination by healing arts professionals against groups that include people with disabilities.

AB 55 passed the Assembly and is now in the Senate Health Committee. The bill would increase the number of those eligible for Medi-Cal.

AB 1113 passed from Assembly to the Senate. It extends certain provisions of the Medi-Cal program and expands eligibility.

SB 840 passed on to the Assembly and would establish the California Universal Healthcare System and create a single-

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payer health care system.

SB 1410 was passed by the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Health Committee. It is aimed at individuals with traumatic brain injury and would encourage the State to support home and community based care for these individuals.

Some of the bills which are considered as “dead” for this session include:

SB 782 would have frozen the wages and benefits of IHSS workers at their January 1, 2007 level. **AB 271** would have required proof of citizenship for a person to receive any state-funded benefits. **SB 426** would have created a position in the Department of Emergency Services to focus on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. **SB 122** would have added homeless status to the list of what qualify as “hate crimes.” **SB 464** was related to rent control. **AB 459** would have allowed criminal background checks of home care providers and passed the cost on to those providers or the care recipients. **AB 1386** would have authorized hours for IHSS providers to accompany clients to health-related appointments. **AB 853** would have

provided for licensure and regulation of home care organizations. **AB 9** would have required proof of identity before receiving a ballot in an election.

AB 1654 would have allowed all-mailed ballot elections by local governments.

Stay tuned for the status of those bills left standing after six months of legislative activity. Be sure to let your elected officials know how you feel about any of these bills and give TCIL a call if you want further information about them.

Local Happenings

July 26 is the anniversary of the signing of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**. Check out the Humboldt County Libraries in Arcata and Eureka for displays in July about the ADA and watch for further details of how TCIL plans to recognize this important date in the disability rights movement.

Tri-County Independent Living: (707) 445-8404. For questions on this publication, call Glenn Reed.