



Board of Retirement Regular Meeting

Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System

Agenda Item 9A

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Legislative Update—October 2023

SUBMITTED FOR: Consent Deliberation and Action Receive and File

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the SACRS Legislative Update for October 2023.

PURPOSE

This item complies with the Strategic Management Plan goal of stakeholder communication and outreach by participating in the legislative process to monitor changes in state law affecting public pension plans.

DISCUSSION

The attached report highlights recent legislative activity affecting California public pension plans and is produced by SACRS' legislative advocates at Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith, LLC.

SACRS is composed of the 20 systems operating under the County Employees' Retirement Law. The association's mission is to provide education and analysis to trustees and staff so that they can be more effective stewards of their systems' pension plans.

ATTACHMENTS

- Board Order
- SACRS Legislative Update—October 2023

Prepared by:

/S/

Eric Stern
Chief Executive Officer



Retirement Board Order

Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System

Before the Board of Retirement
October 18, 2023

AGENDA ITEM:

**State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS)
Information: Legislative Update – October 2023**

THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT hereby approves Staff's recommendation to receive and file the SACRS Legislative Update – October 2023.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order was passed and adopted on October 18, 2023 by the following vote of the Board of Retirement, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ALTERNATES:

(Present but not voting)

James Diepenbrock
Board President

Eric Stern
Chief Executive Officer and
Board Secretary



October 5, 2023

TO: State Association of County Retirement Systems

FROM: Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith, LLC

RE: **Legislative Update – October 2023**

The California Legislature closed out its work for the 2023 legislative session on the evening of September 14th, sending approximately 900 bills to the Governor for consideration. The Governor has until October 14th to act on those measures.

While there were several areas of public policymaking that captured the Legislature's attention this year, labor and employment policy primarily dominated the legislative landscape. This was driven by ongoing strikes affecting the entertainment and Southern California lodging industries. Additionally, threatened strikes by healthcare workers, state and local public employee unions, UPS, pending statewide ballot measures, and a referendum to overturn a recently enacted restaurant wage law, the media deemed summer 2023 to be California's "[Hot Labor Summer](#)".

The Democrat dominated and labor-friendly Legislature responded with dozens of legislative proposals aimed at assisting its most important constituency: organized labor. With overwhelming 3/4 supermajorities in each house of the Legislature, labor-backed, Democrat-authored labor bills are almost certain to pass. Among the many labor-backed bills that the Governor has acted on are:

[SB 799 \(Portantino\) Unemployment Insurance for Striking Workers -- VETOED](#)

This bill would have made striking workers who have been on strike for more than two weeks eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

[SB 616 \(Gonzalez\) – Paid Sick Leave -- SIGNED](#)

This bill would extend the annual amount of paid sick leave required to be given to an employee from three days to five days.

The Governor has not yet acted on [AB 1](#) which would allow legislative employees to join a union and collectively bargain for their wages and working conditions.

Legislation of Interest

SB 885 (Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement). This is the annual committee omnibus bill that contains various cleanup provisions for CalSTRS, CalPERS and CERL systems. The amendments to the CERL make non-substantive, technical changes as well as conform provisions on Required Minimum Distributions to federal law under the SECURE ACT 2.0 by referencing the federal law instead of a specific age.



The Governor signed this bill into law.

AB 1020 (Grayson) – CERL Disability Presumptions. This bill would establish several new disability retirement presumptions for various injuries and illnesses in the CERL, similar to provisions that exist in the Labor Code. The bill is sponsored by the California Professional Firefighters. The author and sponsor agreed to technical clarifications proposed by SACRS that were amended into the bill in June. CSAC remains opposed to the bill.

The bill is on the Governor's desk.

AB 1637 (Irwin) - Local Government Websites and Email Addresses. Would, no later than January 1, 2029, require a local agency, as defined, that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website utilizes a “.gov” top-level domain or a “.ca.gov” second-level domain and would require a local agency that maintains an internet website that is noncompliant with that requirement to redirect that internet website to a domain name that does utilize a “.gov” or “.ca.gov” domain. This bill, no later than January 1, 2029, would also require a local agency that maintains public email addresses to ensure that each email address provided to its employees utilizes a “.gov” domain name or a “.ca.gov” domain name. By adding to the duties of local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill is on the Governor's desk.

AB 557 (Hart) - Brown Act Emergency Teleconferencing Sunset Extension. This bill would remove the sunset in current law to allow teleconferencing during certain emergencies as well as increase the time period when the Board must renew the findings of an emergency or need for social distancing from 30 days to 45 days.

The bill is on the Governor's desk.

SB 537 (Becker) - Teleconference Flexibilities. This bill would allow expanded teleconference flexibilities for multijurisdictional, cross county legislative bodies if certain requirements are met, along with adding to the list of circumstances where a member is permitted to participate remotely. The bill has been narrowed considerably as it advanced through various policy committees in each house.

The bill was held on the Assembly Floor and may be considered when the Legislature returns in January.

2024 Legislative Preview

The legislative committee is currently working on proposals for consideration at the fall conference.