

## ITEM 8

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Commission staff continues to monitor for legislation that might affect the mandates process.

**SB 414 School accountability: Office of the Education Inspector General: school financial and performance audits: charter school authorization, oversight, funding, operations, and networks: flex-based instruction: local educational agency contracting<sup>1</sup>**

SB 414 was introduced by Senator Ashby on February 14, 2025, and was sent to the Senate Committee on Rules for assignment and to print. On February 18, 2025 this bill was received from the printer and on February 26, 2025, this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Rules. On March 26, 2025, this bill returned from the Senate Committee on Rules with the author's amendments, was read a second time and amended, and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Rules. On April 2, 2025, this bill was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Education and the Senate Judiciary Committee. On April 4, 2025, this bill was set for hearing on April 23, 2025 and on April 22, 2025, this bill was set for hearing on April 29, 2025 in the Senate Judiciary Committee, pending receipt. On April 23, 2025 this bill passed and was re-referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. On April 30, 2025, this bill passed as amended and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. On May 1, 2025, this bill was read a second time and amended, and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. On May 9, 2025, this bill was set for hearing on May 19, 2025. On May 19, 2025, this bill was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations suspense file. On May 20, 2025, this bill was set for hearing on May 13, 2025. On May 23, 2025, this bill passed, was read a second time, and was ordered to a third reading. On June 2, 2025, this bill was read a third time, passed, and was ordered to the Assembly. On June 3, 2025, this bill was read for the first time in the Assembly and was held at desk. On June 9, 2025, this bill was referred to the Assembly Committees on Education and Judiciary. On July 8, 2025, this bill with the author's amendments was read a second time, amended, and was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Education. On July 17, 2025, this bill was suspended by Assembly Rule 63. On July 18, 2025, this bill passed as amended and was re-referred, was read a second time and amended, and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. On August 20, 2025, this bill was set for first hearing and was placed on the Assembly Committee on Appropriations suspense file. On August 29, 2025, the bill passed as amended and on September 2, 2025, this bill was read a second time, amended, and ordered to a second reading. On September 3, 2025, this bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading. On September 9, 2025, this bill was suspended per Joint Rule 61(a)(13), was read a third time and amended, and was ordered to a third reading. On September 13, 2025, this bill was suspended per Joint Rule 61(a)(14) and 51(a)(4), was

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=20250260SB414](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20250260SB414) for more information.

read a third time, passed, and was ordered to the Senate with concurrence in Assembly amendments pending that were concurred in and this bill was ordered to engrossing and enrolling. On September 23, 2025, this bill was enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2:00 pm. On October 13, 2025, this bill was vetoed by the Governor and remains in the Senate with consideration of the Governor's veto pending.

(1) Existing law requires county superintendents of schools to provide for an audit of all funds under their jurisdiction and control, and requires the governing board of each local educational agency to either provide for an audit of the books and accounts of the local educational agency or make arrangements with county superintendents of schools to provide for that auditing. Existing law requires the governing board of each school district and each office of the county superintendent of schools to include specified provisions in their contracts for audits and requires financial and compliance audits to be performed in accordance with specified standards. If the governing board of a school district has entered into a contract for an independent audit of its financial statements and the audited financial statements have not been filed with the county superintendent of schools on or before a specified due date, existing law authorizes the county superintendent of schools to, among other things, investigate the causes for the delay, as provided.

This bill would expressly apply the above-described provisions to educational joint powers authorities and charter schools. The bill, among other things, would require those financial and compliance audits of local educational agencies to be conducted in accordance with specified filing deadlines and would revise requirements regarding which entity is responsible for providing an audit if a local educational agency has not provided for an audit of their respective books and accounts to include the Controller or a chartering authority, as provided. The bill would require, instead of authorize, a county superintendent of schools to investigate the causes for an above-described delay. The bill would require a local educational agency to post the local educational agency's annual financial and compliance audits on its internet website.

Existing law requires the Controller to, among other things, on an annual basis, review and monitor the audit reports performed by independent auditors, determine whether audit reports are in conformance with specified reporting provisions, and notify each local educational agency, the responsible county superintendent of schools, the Superintendent, the Department of Finance, and the auditor regarding each determination. Existing law authorizes the Controller to perform quality control reviews of audit working papers to determine whether audits are performed in conformity with those specified standards. Existing law requires the Controller to annually report to the State Department of Education to apprise the department of school districts and offices of county superintendents of schools that are not in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations related to audits and requires the Controller to make recommendations as to what action should be taken by the department.

The bill would require the Controller to, if applicable, notify the responsible chartering authority of each determination made, as referenced above, and would require notification to applicable entities to be made within 6 months of the audit report due date or the audit report issue date, whichever is later. The bill would require the Controller to establish and publish as part of the audit guide a weighted risk-based criteria that considers auditor experience and quality factors in determining which audit engagements are required to

undergo a quality control review, as provided. The bill would require the Controller to report and provide recommendations to the Superintendent, instead of the department, of entities not in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations and would include educational joint powers authorities and charter schools as reported entities.

The bill, commencing with the 2027-28 fiscal year Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting, would require the Controller to include, among other things, instructions requiring specified supplemental information and schedules in audit report components for local educational agency audits and an appendix with the Controller's desk review checklist that is used to determine whether audit reports are in conformance with specified reporting requirements, as provided.

Under existing law, once the Controller or county superintendent of schools makes a final determination that specified audits performed by a certified public accountant or public accountant were not performed in substantial conformity with provisions of an audit guide, or that the audit reports do not conform to the provisions of an audit guide, the certified public accountant or public accountant is ineligible to conduct specified audits for 3 years. Existing law requires audits to be made by a certified public accountant or a public accountant, licensed by the California Board of Accountancy, and selected by a local educational agency, as applicable, from a directory of certified public accountants and public accountants deemed by the Controller as qualified to conduct audits of local educational agencies.

In order to be added to, or remain on, the Controller's directory of certified public accountants and public accountants as described above, the bill would require, commencing with the 2027-28 fiscal year, and every 2 years thereafter, audit engagement partners and certified public accountants or public accountants responsible for local educational agency audits to, among other things, complete 16 hours of continuing education, demonstrate specified experience, and maintain compliance with the California Board of Accountancy requirements to keep applicable licenses in active status and good standing, as provided. The bill would also apply the continuing education requirement to audit staff who perform audit procedures of local educational agencies.

The bill would extend the above-described rules related to the ineligibility of the certified public accountant or public accountant to audits of charter schools, as provided, and would additionally require the Controller to notify charter schools of those certified public accountants or public accountants determined to be ineligible to conduct audits, as provided.

To the extent the bill would impose additional duties on local educational agencies or local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The bill, until January 1, 2034, would establish the Office of the Education Inspector General. The bill would provide for the appointment of the Education Inspector General by the Governor from a list of 3 qualified individuals nominated by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, subject to confirmation by a majority of the Senate. The bill would require the Office of the Education Inspector General to, among other things, (A) conduct and supervise forensic audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the department, local educational agencies, and entities managing a charter school related to fraud, misappropriation of funds, and other illegal practices and (B) annually report to the

appropriate policy committees of the Legislature on investigations and audits of the programs and operations of the department, local educational agencies, and entities managing a charter school.

(3) Existing law requires the Controller, in consultation with the Department of Finance and the State Department of Education, to develop a plan to review and report on financial and compliance audits, and with representatives of other entities, to recommend the statements and other information to be included in the audit reports filed with the state by local educational agencies, and to propose the content of an audit guide. Existing law requires the audit guide to include specified content, as provided.

This bill would require the Controller to consult with representatives of 2 additional specified entities and would require the audit guide to include a variety of additional content relating to audits of a local educational agency, as provided.

(4) Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials, certificates, and permits. Existing law requires the commission and the department to enter into a data sharing agreement for the department to provide the commission with educator assignment data necessary to annually identify educator misassignments and vacant positions at local educational agencies, as provided, as part of the State Assignment Accountability System. Existing law requires the commission to annually use data it receives from the department to produce an initial data file of vacant positions and educator assignments that do not have a clear match of credential to assignment and requires the commission to notify local educational agencies and monitoring authorities of the opportunity to access and review the initial data file of potential misassignments, as defined, and vacant positions. Existing law grants the commission the authority to make a final determination for all potential misassignments. Existing law requires, commencing with the 2020–21 school year, the commission to make annual educator assignment, misassignment, and vacant position data publicly available on its internet website.

This bill would require teachers employed by a local educational agency and offering certain courses to hold the certificate, permit, or other document required by the commission for that assignment and be monitored. To the extent that this provision would create new duties for county superintendents of schools and local educational agencies, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(5) Existing law requires state funding to be calculated and withheld from a school district or county office of education for any fiscal year in which a person renders service as a teacher in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, who does not have a valid certification document, as provided.

This bill would apply the above-described provisions relating to the penalties for a person rendering services as a teacher who does not have a valid certification document to charter schools, as provided.

(6) Existing law requires any entity that has a contract with a school district, county office of education, or charter school to ensure that any employee who interacts with pupils, outside of the immediate supervision and control of the pupil's parent or guardian or a school employee, has a valid criminal records summary, as specified.

This bill would require an entity that has a contract with a local educational agency to instead ensure any employee who interacts with pupils has a valid criminal records summary without regard to whether the interaction takes place outside of the immediate supervision and control of the pupil's parent or guardian or a school employee.

(7) The Charter Schools Act of 1992 requires each charter school to transmit a copy of its annual, independent financial audit report for the preceding fiscal year to the county office of education, the Controller, and the State Department of Education by December 15 of each year.

The act authorizes the establishment, operation, and governance of charter schools. Existing law authorizes a charter school that has an approved charter to receive funding for nonclassroom-based instruction only if a determination for funding is made by the State Board of Education, as specified. The act prohibits, from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2026, inclusive, the approval of a petition for the establishment of a new charter school offering nonclassroom-based instruction, as specified.

This bill would extend that prohibition to instead continue through June 30, 2026.

This bill would require the governing body of a charter school, by January 31, 2026, and by January 31 of each year thereafter, to review, at a public meeting as an item on the agenda, the annual audit of the charter school for the prior fiscal year, any audit exceptions identified in that audit, the recommendations or findings of any management letter issued by the auditor, and any description of correction or plans to correct any exceptions or management letter issue. By imposing additional requirements on charter schools, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would replace the term "nonclassroom-based instruction" with "flex-based instruction" and define a "flex-based charter school" as a charter school that receives a determination for funding from the state board, as described above. The bill would also make numerous nonsubstantive and conforming changes.

(8) Existing law requires each chartering authority to, among other things, monitor the fiscal condition of each charter school under its authority. Existing law authorizes the state board to, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, take appropriate action when the state board finds, among other things, illegal or substantially improper use of charter school funds for the personal benefit of any officer, director, or fiduciary of the charter school, as provided.

This bill would require that monitoring also include a review of a sample of credit and debit card transactions of each charter school under its authority. The bill would require a chartering authority to provide the governing body of the charter school with feedback on any issues of concern identified in the review, as provided. If a chartering authority has reasonable suspicion that fraud, misappropriations of public funds, embezzlement, or other financial crimes, may be occurring, the bill would require the chartering authority to notify the State Department of Education and the county office of education. The bill would require the state board, or the state board's designee, to promptly investigate allegations of false claims or misappropriation of public funds by charter schools if there is probable cause to believe that those crimes have occurred. By imposing additional requirements on charter schools

and local educational agencies acting as chartering authorities, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(9) Existing law, until January 1, 2026, sets out performance standards and procedures for the renewal of charter schools. Existing law sets out revised standards and procedures that are operative on and after January 1, 2026.

This bill would extend, until July 1, 2028, the operation of the performance standards and procedures for the renewal of charter schools that would otherwise be inoperative on January 1, 2026, and would delay the operation of the revised standards and procedures until July 1, 2028.

(10) Existing law provides for the apportionment of state funding to a charter school based on the average daily attendance that is generated by pupils engaged in nonclassroom-based instruction, as defined, in accordance with prescribed criteria and procedures.

This bill would revise and recast those provisions by, among other things, requiring the determination of funding to be on a percentage basis and require the Superintendent to implement the determination for funding by reducing the charter school's reported average daily attendance by the percentage specified by the state board, as specified, and, commencing with the 2027-28 fiscal year, requiring the state board's Advisory Commission on Charter Schools to recommend to the state board the approval of a funding determination request submitted by a charter school consistent with specified conditions.

Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, the bill would require the State Department of Education to annually develop a list that identifies networks of flex-based charter schools, as defined, based on data from the prior school year.

(11) Existing law authorizes a school district, county office of education, or charter school to offer independent study to meet the educational needs of pupils when certain requirements are met, including, among others, that the local educational agency has adopted written policies, and implemented those policies, in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Superintendent, as specified. Existing law authorizes a local educational agency to claim apportionment credit for independent study only to the extent of the time value of pupil work products.

This bill would require a local educational agency to maintain one complete pupil work product in each of 4 specified subjects for a pupil enrolled in independent study for each of 3 specified attendance periods, except as provided.

(12) The bill would establish the Charter Authorizer Mentor Grant Program to be administered by the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence for the purpose of providing competitive grants to qualified applicants to provide technical assistance to eligible chartering authorities of charter schools, as defined.

The bill would establish the Charter School Authorizer Grant Program within the department to provide grants to chartering authorities for certain increased costs associated with the responsibilities imposed by this bill, as provided.

(13) The bill would require the governing board or body of a school district, educational joint powers authority, county office of education, or charter school, on or before July 1, 2027, to adopt a policy in order to evaluate and approve contractors. The bill would require the policy

to include specified provisions, including, among other things, that a local educational agency is prohibited from (A) expending public funds for a contract unless the materials, programs, and activities are nonsectarian, (B) offering financial payments or gifts as an incentive for pupil enrollment, referral, or retention, and (C) purchasing or contracting for season passes or membership to amusement or theme parks, zoos, or family entertainment activities, except as provided.

(14) Under the California Constitution, whenever the Legislature or a state agency mandates a new program or higher level of service on any local agency, the state is required to provide a subvention of funds to reimburse the local agency, with specified exceptions. Existing law, for purposes of this reimbursement, defines “local agency” to include any city, county, special district, authority, or other political subdivision of the state.

This bill, for purposes of the above-described state reimbursement, would explicitly add any charter school to the definition of local agency.

(15) This bill would provide that the provisions of this bill are severable.

(16) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

#### **AB 964 Commission on State Mandates: state mandates<sup>2</sup>**

AB 964 was introduced by Assembly Member Hadwick on February 20, 2025. On March 10, 2025 this bill was referred to the Assembly Committees on Local Government and Education. On March 27, 2025 this bill was amended and re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government, read a second time, and amended. On April 23, 2025, this bill was passed and re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Education, where it was amended, read a second time, and amended. On April 24, 2025, this bill was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Education. On May 1, 2025, this bill was passed and re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations with a recommendation to the Consent Calendar and was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. On May 14, 2025, this bill was set for first hearing and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations suspense file. On May 23, 2025, this bill was held under submission. There has been no new action on this bill.

Existing law creates the Commission on State Mandates and establishes procedures for implementing the requirement in the California Constitution that the state reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Existing law makes a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller, and authorizes the Controller to make a field review of a claim after it has been submitted but before it has been reimbursed. Existing law requires

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<sup>2</sup> See [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB964](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB964) for more information.

the Controller to notify the claimant in writing within 30 days after issuance of a remittance advice of any adjustment to a claim for reimbursement that results from an audit or review.

This bill would, instead, require the Controller to notify the claimant in writing within 30 days of any adjustment that results from an audit or review. The bill would also require the Controller to allow a local agency or school district, at the sole discretion of the local agency or school district, to offset any reduced reimbursement, as prescribed, or to remit funds to the Controller.

### **AB 1452 State Mandates: claims<sup>3</sup>**

AB 1452 was introduced by Assembly Member Ta on February 21, 2025, it was read for the first time on February 24, 2025, and may be heard in committee March 24, 2025. On March 13, 2025, this bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government. There has been no new action on this bill.

The California Constitution, whenever the Legislature or a state agency mandates a new program or higher level of service on any local government, including school districts, requires the state to provide a subvention of funds to reimburse the local government, unless an exception applies. Statutory provisions that establish procedures for making that reimbursement include a requirement that no claim shall be made or paid unless it exceeds \$1,000.

This bill would change the minimum claim amount to \$800.

### **SB 470 Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing<sup>4</sup>**

SB 470 was introduced by Senator Laird on February 19, 2025 and was read for the first time. On February 26, 2025, this bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and may be acted upon on or after March 22, 2025. On March 12, 2025, this bill was set for hearing on March 25, 2025, it passed, and was re-referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. On March 27, 2025 this bill was set for hearing on April 8, 2025. On April 9, 2025 this bill passed as amended and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. On April 10, 2025, this bill was read a second time, amended, and re-referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. On April 17, 2025, this bill was set for hearing on April 28, 2025. On April 28, 2025, this bill was ordered to a second reading pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8. On April 29, 2025, this bill was read a second time and was ordered to a third reading. On June 2, 2025, this bill was read a third time, passed, and ordered to the Assembly. On June 3, 2025, this bill was read in the Assembly for the first time, and was held at desk. On June 9, 2025, this bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization. On July 10, 2025, this bill passed and was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. On August 20, 2025, this bill passed in committee and on August 21, 2025, it was read a second time and ordered to third reading. On September 8, 2025, this bill was read a third time, passed, was ordered to the Senate and

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<sup>3</sup> See [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=20250260AB1452](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20250260AB1452) for more information.

<sup>4</sup> See [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=20250260SB470](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20250260SB470) for more information.



to engrossing and enrolling. On September 16, 2025 this bill was enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3:00 pm. On October 1, 2025, this bill was approved by the Governor and was chaptered by the Secretary of State as Statutes 2025, chapter 222.

Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The act authorizes meetings through teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that the state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, and that at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

The act authorizes an additional, alternative set of provisions under which a state body may hold a meeting by teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that at least one member of the state body is physically present at each teleconference location, as defined, that a majority of the members of the state body are physically present at the same teleconference location, except as specified, and that members of the state body visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, except as specified. The act authorizes, under specified circumstances, a member of the state body to participate pursuant to these provisions from a remote location, which would not be required to be accessible to the public and which the act prohibits the notice and agenda from disclosing. The act repeals these provisions on January 1, 2026.

This bill would, as amended, repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030.

The act authorizes a multimember state advisory body to hold an open meeting by teleconference pursuant to an alternative set of provisions that are in addition to the above-described provisions generally applicable to state bodies. These alternative provisions specify requirements, including, among others, that the multimember state advisory body designates the primary physical meeting location in the notice of the meeting where members of the public may physically attend the meeting, observe and hear the meeting, and participate, that at least one staff member of the state body to be present at the primary physical meeting location during the meeting, and that the members of the state body visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, except as specified. Existing law repeals these provisions on January 1, 2026.

This bill would, as amended, repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030.

The act, beginning January 1, 2026, removes the above-described requirements for the alternative set of teleconferencing provisions for multimember state advisory bodies, and, instead, requires, among other things, that the multimember state advisory body designates the primary physical meeting location in the notice of the meeting where members of the public may physically attend the meeting and participate.

This bill would, as amended, make these provisions operative on January 1, 2030.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

### **AB 395 Holidays.<sup>5</sup>**

AB 395 was introduced by Assembly Member Gabriel on February 3, 2025 and was read for the first time. On March 28, 2025, this bill was referred to the Assembly Committees on Education and Higher Education, was amended, was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Education, was read a second time, and amended. On April 1, 2025, this bill was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Education. On April 10, 2025, this bill was amended, passed as amended, and was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Higher Education with recommendation to the Consent Calendar. On April 21, 2025, this bill was read a second time and amended. On April 22, 2025, this bill was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Higher Education. On April 30, 2025, this bill was amended, passed as amended, and was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations with recommendation to the Consent Calendar. On May 1, 2025, this bill was read a second time and amended. On May 5, 2025, this bill was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. On May 14, 2025, this bill was set for first hearing and referred to the suspense file. On May 23, 2025, this bill passed and on May 27, 2025, this bill was read a second time and ordered to the third reading. On June 2, 2025, this bill was read for a third time, passed, and ordered to the Senate. On June 3, 2025, this bill was read in the Senate for the first time and ordered to the Senate Rules Committee for assignment. On June 11, 2025, this bill was referred to the Senate Committees on Education and Judiciary. On June 25, 2025, this bill was amended, passed as amended, and re-referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary with a recommendation to the Consent Calendar. On June 26, 2025, this bill was read a second time, amended, and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary. On July 7, 2025, this hearing on this bill was postponed and on July 14, 2025, this bill was set for first hearing but it was cancelled at the request of the author. There has been no new action on this bill.

This bill would require, commencing with the 2026-27 school year, the governing board of a school district, a county office of education, or the governing body of a charter school to consider making efforts to avoid scheduling the first day of class and high school graduation, if applicable, on a date for which the governing board or county office of education knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday. In addition, this bill would require, commencing with the 2026-2027 academic year, the governing board of a community college and the California State University, and would request the University of California, to make every reasonable effort, when developing academic calendars, to avoid calendaring an institutional event, as defined, on a date for which the institution of higher education knows, or has reason to know, that members of the

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<sup>5</sup> See [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB395](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB395) for more information.

public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday.

The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and the Ralph M. Brown Act require, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of specified governmental bodies be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend. This bill would require a state agency to make every reasonable effort to avoid conducting any meeting, conference, or other function on a date for which the state agency knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday, including, among others, Eid al-Adha, Rosh Hashanah, and Diwali. The bill would also encourage a legislative body of a local agency to consider making efforts to avoid conducting any meeting, conference, or other function on a date for which the legislative body knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday, including, among others, the holidays listed above; specifically:

- (1) Eid al-Adha. (the evening of Friday June 6-Saturday June 7, 2025)
- (2) Eid al-Fitr. (the evening of Thursday, March 19, 2026-Friday, March 20, 2026)
- (3) Feast of the Nativity. (Monday, September 8, 2025)
- (4) Maha Shivaratri. (Sunday, February 15, 2026, 3:34 a.m., -Monday February 16, 2026, 4:04 a.m.)
- (5) The first and last two days of Pesach, also known as Passover. (Wednesday, April 1, 2026 and Wednesday, April 8, 2026 and Thursday, April 9, 2026)
- (6) Rosh Hashanah. (the evening of Monday September 22, 2025 – Wednesday, September 24, 2025)
- (7) Yom Kippur. (the evening of Wednesday, October 1, 2025 – Thursday October 2, 2025)
- (8) Diwali. (Monday October 20, 2025)
- (9) Dussehra. (Thursday, October 2, 2025)