



Legislative Article for CARPD

Session:

Legislators returned to Sacramento on Monday, July 27, 2020 to wrap up the 2019-2020 session by August 31st, with the Senate only convening in person for floor sessions and will vote virtually for committee hearings. In-person participation during committee hearings by the public is highly discouraged, as they will continue to offer call-in testimony. Each committee will hold only one hearing, limiting the bills to mostly COVID-19 related measures.

Childcare Licensing Exemption:

PPA has been working with CSDA to request an extension of the existing recreation exemption to childcare licensing during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist school districts and working parents with daycare and distance learning support. This issue developed from a few school districts reaching out to park and recreation districts for assistance providing childcare to students of essential worker parents. These efforts include conducting a statewide survey by CARPD to collect data of how park and recreation districts are planning and accommodating the changes and increase in demand of programs. We have made contact and are meeting with Superintendent Thurmond's Government Relations team and Early Learning & Care Division to discuss possible trailer bill language or an executive order from the governor granting a temporary extension of hours for unlicensed recreation programs. Additionally, we are preparing a letter to gather support for our efforts from members of the legislature.

SB 217 (Portantino) – Camps:

Senate Bill 217 by Senator Portantino would, among other things, require organized and recreational camps to become licensed and would establish the Recreational Camp Safety Advisory Council to oversee policy matters relating to recreational camps. As the language of the bill refers to for-profit and nonprofit recreational camps, PPA is having ongoing discussions to clarify that SB 217 will not negatively impact public park and recreation districts.

Special District Provide Essential Services Act:

HR 7073 by Congressman Garamendi would allow special districts direct access to the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund. Senators Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and John Cornyn, R-Texas will be introducing a senate version this week. An outline summary of the text is below:

- Require states to distribute 5 percent of future Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations to special districts within their states within 60 days of receiving funds from the U.S. Treasury.

- Require districts applying for funding to demonstrate how they have experienced or anticipate COVID-19-related revenue loss, grant/inter-governmental revenue loss and increased expenditures.
- Caps an eligible special districts funding matching any quarter in 2019. Districts providing services the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (sub-agency of the Department of Homeland Security) deems to be within a “critical infrastructure sector” would be exempt from limitations.
- Allow states with excess funds reserved for special districts to file a waiver with U.S. Treasury demonstrating how the state distributed its special districts funding. If approved, the state may use the balance of the funds for other purposes.
- “Special district” would be defined as a “political subdivision of a State, formed pursuant to general law or special act of the State, for the purpose of performing one or more governmental or proprietary functions.”
- Require the U.S. Department of Treasury to consider special districts as eligible issuers to take advantage of the Municipal Liquidity Facility, as established in the CARES Act, for access to capital during the current financial downturn.