Public Employees' Retirement System Board of Administration 2021-2022 Legislative Session State and Federal Update Status as of October 17, 2022

Chaptered State Bills

AB 1722 (Cooper) Chaptered: 9/19/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Safety Member Industrial Disability Retirement. This bill will remove the sunset date on a provision in the Public Employees' Retirement Law that allows CalPERS public safety members who qualify for Industrial Disability Retirement and are under age 50 to receive an actuarially reduced retirement benefit.

Location: 9/19/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 404, Statutes of 2022.

AB 1824 (Committee on Public Employment and Retirement) Chaptered: 9/2/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

2022 Retirement Omnibus Bill. Among other things, this bill will require that the entire amount of the penalty imposed on contracting agency employers related to reduced pensions due to disallowed compensation to be paid to the affected retired member, survivor, or beneficiary, rather than direct a portion of the penalty payment to CalPERS.

Location: 9/2/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 231, Statutes of 2022.

AB 2443 (Cooley) Chaptered: 9/25/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Deferred Retirement - JRS II. This bill will allow a judge in the JRS II who is not eligible to retire under existing law, but is at least 60 years old with 15 years of service or 65 years old with a minimum of 10 years of service, to elect one of two deferred retirement options. This bill will also make other conforming changes to existing JRS II law related to retiree health coverage and benefits for a surviving spouse to accommodate a deferred retirement. The provisions of this bill will become operative on January 1, 2024, and will only remain in effect until January 1, 2029, and after that date are repealed.

Location: 9/25/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 531, Statutes of 2022.

SB 245 (Gonzalez) Chaptered: 3/22/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Health Care Coverage: Cost Sharing for Abortion Services. This bill will prohibit health care service plans or an individual or group policy or certificate of health insurance or student blanket disability insurance that is issued, amended, renewed, or delivered on or after January 1, 2023 from imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any cost-sharing requirement on the coverage for all abortion and abortion-related services, including preabortion and follow-up services, and from imposing utilization management or utilization review for outpatient coverage. This bill will also require contracts, certificates, and policies with high-deductible health plans to prohibit cost-sharing for such coverage once the enrollee or insured's deductible has been satisfied for that benefit year.

Location: 3/22/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 11, Statutes of 2022.

SB 523 (Leyva) Chaptered: 9/27/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Contraceptive Equity Act of 2022. This bill will expand contraceptive coverage by health care service plans and health insurance policies issued, amended, renewed, or delivered on or after January 1, 2024, and will prohibit them from imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirement on vasectomy services or procedures. This bill will prohibit prescriptions from being required for over-the-counter FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products and will require in-network pharmacies to provide point-of-sale coverage for over-the-counter FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products without cost sharing or medical management restrictions. Beginning January 1, 2024, SB 523 will require health benefit plans and contracts subject to the CalPERS Board of Administration authority to comply with this Act. It also will require health care service plans and insurance policies, approved on or after January 1, 2024, offered by public or private institutions of higher learning that directly provide health care services to its students, faculty, staff, administration, and respective dependents to comply to this bill, including the California State University and University of California institutions. It will prohibit an employer from discriminating or retaliating against an employee for their reproductive health decision making. It will require a health care service plan, that contracts with a religious employer to provide a health care service plan, that does not include coverage and benefits for vasectomy services and procedures to notify, in writing, upon initial enrollment and annually thereafter upon renewal, each enrollee that vasectomy services and procedures are not included in the enrollee's health care service plan. This bill will revise the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to include protection for reproductive health decision-making, as defined, and prohibit specified discriminatory practices, based on reproductive health decision-making, by employers, labor organizations, apprenticeships and training programs, and licensing board.

Location: 9/27/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 630, Statutes of 2022.

SB 835 (Newman) Chaptered: 8/26/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Employee Benefits: Legislature Employees. This bill will require the Legislature to continue to pay employer contributions for health benefits for a period not to exceed 120 days upon the death of an active legislative employee, to the extent that benefits have been elected. This is consistent with existing law for state employees.

Location: 8/26/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 189, Statutes of 2022.

SB 850 (Laird) Chaptered: 8/29/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Special Death Benefit. This bill will require payments of the additional percentage of the special death benefit, payable when the member is killed performing their duty by accident or external violence, be made to the guardian of the member's child or children when the member does not have a surviving spouse. This bill will be effective retroactively on January 1, 2013.

Location: 8/29/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 219, Statutes of 2022.

SB 1089 (Wilk) Chaptered: 9/25/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Divestment from Turkish Investment Vehicles Sunset Extension. This bill will extend the repeal date from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2035, on an existing law that requires CalPERS and CalSTRS to cease making any new or additional investments in any investment vehicle in Turkey that is owned by the government of Turkey, upon the passage of a federal law imposing sanctions on the government of Turkey for failure to acknowledge its responsibility for the Armenian Genocide.

Location: 9/25/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 541, Statutes of 2022.

SB 1168 (Cortese) Chaptered: 8/26/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Post-Retirement Death Benefit Increase. This bill will require CalPERS to increase the \$500 post-retirement lumpsum beneficiary payment for contracting agencies to \$2,000 dollars for any death occurring on or after July 1, 2023. This bill will also exempt this benefit increase from the PEPRA prohibition from retroactive benefit enhancements.

Location: 8/26/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 193, Statutes of 2022.

SB 1402 (Umberg) Chaptered: 8/26/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Service Credit Purchase: Merchant Marine Military Service Prior to Membership. This bill will increase eligibility for service credit purchase for military service prior to membership to include active service in the Merchant Marine of the United States on and after January 1, 1950, for State and school members. This bill will also require all contracting agencies to provide their employees the option to purchase service credit for military and Merchant Marine service prior to membership.

Location: 8/26/2022-Chaptered by Secretary of State – Chapter 196, Statutes of 2022.

Vetoed or Dead State Bills

ACA 11 (Kalra) Introduced: 1/5/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Health Care Coverage Funding. This proposed constitutional amendment would have established the CalCare Trust Fund in the State Treasury and would have deposited tax returns in the fund for the purpose of funding CalCare. This bill would not have become operative until an act passed by the Legislature established in statute a comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of every resident of California.

Location: 8/31/2022-Failed deadline pursuant to Rule 61 (b)(18).

SB 562 (Portantino) Vetoed: 9/28/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Health Care Coverage: Pervasive Developmental Disorders or Autism. Among other things, this bill would have revised the definition of "behavioral health treatment" to require the services and treatment programs provided to be based on behavioral, developmental, relationship-based, or other evidence-based models. This bill also would have expanded and revised the definition of "qualified autism service professional", as specified. This bill would have required the qualified autism service provider design an intervention plan that would have included parent or caregiver participation, when clinically appropriate, that was individualized to the patient, or developed an alternate plan if the parent or caregiver was unable to participate. This bill also would have prohibited the following as being used to deny or reduce coverage for medically necessary services: lack of parent or caregiver participation, implementation of an alternate plan, or the setting, location, or time of treatment.

Governor's Veto Message: I am returning Senate Bill 562 without my signature. This bill would require health plans and insurers to cover relationship-based and developmental behavioral therapies for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The bill would also authorize additional types of providers and professionals that can provide behavioral health therapy to individuals with ASD. Early diagnosis of ASD and subsequent participation in evidence-based intervention and therapies, provided by licensed and certified individuals, make all the difference in an individual's long-term health outcomes. Research finds that Black and Latino children are often misdiagnosed and diagnosed later with ASD than their White peers. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that any intervention is medically-necessary, evidence-based and grounded in research that is conducted to reduce disparities. Under existing law, health plans and insurers must cover evidence-based and medically-necessary behavioral therapies. This bill proposes to change the existing evidence-based standard by requiring coverage of therapies where there is insufficient, or only emerging, evidence to assess the impact of the interventions. Furthermore, the bill proposes changes to professional standards by expanding the types of individuals who can serve as qualified autism service professionals, which could result in long-term ramifications for individuals with ASD who receive the services. I appreciate the author's dedication to supporting children diagnosed with ASD and their families. While the bill's intent is laudable, expanding access to certain therapies and interventions must be grounded in evidence-based practices and be provided by qualified professionals. I encourage the author to continue discussions related to the expansion of provider types and changes to professional standards through a formal licensing scheme that includes clinical expertise and administrative oversight to address qualification standards for practitioners, to ensure equity and quality of care, and provide effective consumer protection, as I expressed when I vetoed a similar bill in 2019.

SB 999 (Cortese) Vetoed: 9/25/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

California Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Patient Safety and Fairness Act. Among other things, this bill would have required a health care service plan, disability insurer, and an entity that acted on a plan's or insurer's behalf, to have ensured compliance with specific requirements for utilization review services with respect to mental health and substance use disorder treatments. These rules would have addressed the expertise and specialty of the provider involved in the appeals and denials process, and the disclosure of appeals conducted, and the percentage of those denied and approved over a specified period. This bill also would have approved coverage for a requested service if a health care service plan, disability insurer, or an entity that acted on the plan or insurer's behalf, did not respond to a request for coverage or an appeal of a denial of coverage within the current timeframe required for urgent or nonurgent care treatment. This bill also would have added a specific interrater pass minimum and compensation rate cap upon providers involved in the utilization review process for making mental health and substance use decisions.

Governor's Veto Message: I am returning Senate Bill 999 without my signature. This bill would require health plans and health insurers that review coverage requests for mental health and substance use disorder treatment to employ reviewers having the same experience and credentials as the requesting provider in these cases. I share the author's goal of ensuring that patients are able to receive the behavioral health care they need, when they need it. Two years ago, I signed SB 855 (Wiener, Chapter 151, Statutes of 2020), a landmark update to California's mental health parity statutes. SB 855 and forthcoming regulations implementing the law seek to address the issues targeted by this bill by requiring the use of unbiased mental health and substance use disorder clinical standards in coverage reviews and mandating the appropriate training and oversight of staff performing those reviews. Implementation of SB 855 is underway, and the industry is in the process of adapting to California's stringent new requirements. As such, this bill is premature and unnecessary at this time.

SB 1328 (McGuire) Amended: 5/19/2022

CalPERS Position: Oppose

Divestment from Russia and Belarus. Among other things, this bill would have prohibited the board of any public retirement system from investing public employee retirement funds in a company domiciled in Russia or Belarus, any company owned by a person sanctioned as a result of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, any company determined to be complicit in the Russian aggression against Ukraine, or any company that provided military equipment to Russia or Belarus. This bill also would have required the boards to have filed an annual report, regarding this divestment, with the Legislature beginning on or before January 1, 2023. The bill also would have prohibited companies that conduct business with the Russian government from bidding on goods or services contracts with state agencies.

Location: 8/31/2022-Failed deadline pursuant to Rule 61 (b)(18).

SB 1343 (Leyva) Amended: 8/15/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Charter Schools: Mandatory Pension System Participation. This bill would have required charter schools authorized on and after January 1, 2025, to participate in CalPERS and CalSTRS, unless participation would have incured adverse tax consequences under the federal Internal Revenue Code. This bill also would not have applied to charter schools that had sought a renewal authorization on or after January 1, 2025, if the charter school initially received authorization to commence operations before January 1, 2025, and would have continuously operated as a charter school since that initial authorization.

Location: 8/31/2022-Failed deadline pursuant to Rule 61 (b)(18).

Federal Bills

H.R. 3 - Pallone, Frank, Jr. (D-NJ) Introduced: 4/22/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act. Establishes several programs and requirements relating to the prices of prescription drugs. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to negotiate prices for single-source, brand-name drugs that lack certain generics and that are among either the 125 drugs that account for the greatest national spending or the 125 drugs that account for the greatest Medicare spending. The negotiated prices must be offered under Medicare and may also be offered under private health insurance unless the insurer opts out. The negotiated maximum price may not exceed (1) 120% of the average price in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom; or (2) if such information is not available, 85% of the U.S. average manufacturer price. Under the Medicare prescription drug benefit, it also (1) requires drug manufacturers to issue rebates to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for covered drugs that cost \$100 or more and for which the average manufacturer price increases faster than inflation; (2) reduces the annual out-of-pocket spending threshold, and (3) eliminates beneficiary cost sharing above this threshold.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 8/16/2022 - Major provisions of this legislation were incorporated into H.R. 5376 (Yarmuth D-KY), the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 that was signed into law by the President on August 16, 2022.

H.R. 82 - Davis, Rodney (R-IL) Introduced: 1/4/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Social Security Fairness Act of 2021. Repeals the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act, which impacts state and local government retirees that have earned pensions through employment not coordinated with Social Security.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 09/21/2022 - Reported by the Committee on Ways and Means without recommendation. Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 372.

Note: S. 1302 (Brown D-OH) is companion legislation that was introduced on April-22, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 963 - Johnson, Henry, Jr. (D-GA) Introduced: 2/11/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal (FAIR) Act of 2022. Prohibits a predispute arbitration agreement from being valid or enforceable if it requires arbitration of an employment, consumer, antitrust, or civil rights dispute.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 3/21/2022 - Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Note: S. 505 (Blumenthal D-CT) is companion legislation that was introduced on March 1, 2022. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 1087 - Foster, Bill (D-IL) Introduced: 2/18/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Shareholder Political Transparency Act of 2021. Requires public companies to disclose political activity expenditures information including the expenditures' dates and amounts, the names of candidates (if any) the expenditures were made in support of or opposition to, and the names of any trade associations or organizations the expenditures were made to.

Action Taken: CalPERS testified in support of principles described in this bill at the February 25, 2021 hearing of the House Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets.

Status: 6/8/2021 - Placed on the House Union Calendar, Calendar No. 36.

Note: Incorporated into H.R. 1187 (Vargas D-CA).

H.R. 1187 - Vargas, Juan (D-CA) Introduced: 2/18/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act. Legislative package containing provisions of previously monitored bills that requires public companies to disclose, among other things: the link between environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics and their long-term business strategy (H.R. 1187), political expenditures (H.R. 1087), compensation practices (H.R. 3471), climate-related risks (H.R. 2570), tax expenditures (H.R. 3007), human capital management (HCM) policies, practices, and performance (H.R. 3471), cybersecurity expertise of their directors (S. 808), and voluntary self-identified racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and veteran status of their directors, director nominees, and senior executives (H.R. 1277).

Action Taken: Sent a letter to Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy expressing support for the overall direction of this bill on June 14, 2021.

Status: 6/17/2021 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1277 - Meeks, Gregory W. (D-NY) Introduced: 2/24/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act of 2021. Requires public companies to disclose the racial, ethnic, gender identity, and sexual orientation of their boards of directors and executive officers (based on voluntary self-identification), as well as the status of any of those directors and officers as a veteran. It also requires the disclosure of any plan to promote racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among these groups. It also requires the SEC to establish a Diversity Advisory Group to report on strategies to increase gender identity, racial, ethnic, and sexual orientation diversity among board members.

Action Taken: Sent a letter to Rep. Meeks expressing support for this bill on April 9, 2021.

Status: 1/20/2022 - Placed on the House Union Calendar, Calendar No. 164.

Note: Incorporated into H.R. 1187 (Vargas D-CA). S. 374 (Menendez D-NJ) is companion legislation that was introduced on February 23, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 1319 - Yarmuth, John A. (D-KY) Signed into law by the President: 3/11/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. An economic relief package that, among other things, provides assistance to individuals with direct one-time payments of up to \$1,400 per person, a refundable payroll tax credit to those who want to remain on their former employers' health plans under COBRA, and approximately \$30 billion for targeted rental assistance and mortgage relief. In addition, it provides approximately \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments and \$129 billion for reopening schools. It allocates approximately \$62 billion for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and vaccination services, and to expand the public health workforce. It also assists certain private-sector multiemployer defined benefit pension plans and reduces funding requirements for single-employer pension plans.

Action Taken: Reviewing for potential impacts to CalPERS.

Status: 3/11/2021 - Signed by the President. (Public Law No. 117-2).

H.R. 1528 - Waters, Maxine (D-CA) Introduced: 3/2/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Promoting Transparent Standards for Corporate Insiders Act. Requires the SEC to analyze, design, and adopt amendments to SEC Rule 10b5-1, that allows certain employees of publicly traded corporations to sell their shares without violating prohibitions on insider trading, to address multiple trading plans, the timing of trades under trading plans, the timing of trade plan modifications and cancellations, and the disclosure of trade plan adoptions, amendments, terminations, and transactions.

Action Taken: Sent a letter to Chairwoman Waters expressing support for this bill on April 9, 2021.

Status: 4/22/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1629 - Dean, Madeleine (D-PA) Introduced: 3/8/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act. Requires the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take into account the sales of all of a manufacturer's drugs developed under the same "orphan drug" designation, when granting market exclusivity for certain drugs used to treat rare diseases or conditions where the manufacturer's costs to develop and distribute the drug cannot be recovered within its first 12 years of U.S. sales.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 5/20/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Note: H.R. 7667 (Eshoo D-CA) is also related to orphan drug provisions and was received in the Senate on June 9, 2022 (see summary below). Staff is monitoring this related legislation.

H.R. 2337 - Neal, Richard E. (D-MA) Introduced: 4/1/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021. Creates a new, more proportional Windfall Elimination Provision formula. For those who are first eligible to receive Social Security before 2023 – the new formula does not apply. They get a monthly additional payment (a "rebate"). For those who are first eligible to receive Social Security starting in 2023 – they can use the current formula or the new formula, whichever is higher.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 4/1/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means' Subcommittee on Social Security.

H.R. 2570 - Casten, Sean (D-IL) Introduced: 4/15/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Climate Risk Disclosure Act of 2021. Requires the SEC to issue rules that require public companies to report on their direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, fossil-fuel-related assets, how their valuation would be affected if climate change continues at its current pace, and their risk management strategies related to risks posed by climate change.

Action Taken: Sent a letter to Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy expressing support for this bill on May 26, 2021.

Status: 5/20/2021 - Placed on the House Union Calendar, Calendar No. 22.

Note: Incorporated into H.R. 1187 (Vargas D-CA). S. 1217 (Warren D-MA) is companion legislation that was introduced on April 19, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 2620 - Foster, Bill (D-IL) Introduced: 4/16/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Investor Choice Act of 2021. Prohibits issuers of securities from mandating arbitration for a dispute between the issuer and its shareholders. The bill would also make it unlawful for any broker dealer or investment advisor to mandate arbitration with customers. The bill would retroactively apply to agreements that mandate arbitration.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 11/16/2021 - Passed the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R. 2655 - Himes, James A. (D-CT) Introduced: 4/19/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Insider Trading Prohibition Act. Makes it unlawful for a person to trade on material, nonpublic information when the information was wrongfully obtained, or when the use of such information to make a trade would be deemed wrongful and makes it unlawful to communicate that information to another person when it is reasonable that the person is likely to trade on that information.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 5/19/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Note: S. 3990 (Reed D-RI) is companion legislation that was introduced on April 4, 2022. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 2954 - Neal, Richard E. (D-MA) Introduced: 5/4/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2021. Among other things, increases the individual retirement account required minimum distribution age from 72 to 75, enrolls private-sector employees automatically in their company's 401(k) plan, creates a new financial incentive for small businesses to offer retirement plans, offers individuals ages 62 through 64 additional "catch-up" opportunities as they approach retirement, and allows individuals to pay down a student loan instead of contributing to a 401(k) plan and still receive an employer match in their retirement plan.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 3/30/2022 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Note: S. 4353 (Murray D-WA) and S. 4808 (Wyden D-OR) are companion bills that have passed the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Senate Committee on Finance, respectively. Staff is monitoring the negotiations to reconcile the three bills.

H.R. 3007 - Axne, Cynthia (D-IA) Introduced: 5/7/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act. Requires publicly traded companies to annually disclose information on their subsidiaries and specified country-by-country financial information including total pre-tax profits, total amounts paid in State, Federal, and foreign taxes, employees, and tangible assets.

Action Taken: CalPERS testified in support of principles described in this bill at the February 25, 2021 hearing of the House Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets.

Status: 6/8/2021 - Placed on the House Union Calendar, Calendar No. 35.

Note: Incorporated into H.R. 1187 (Vargas D-CA). S. 1545 (Van Hollen D-MD) is companion legislation that was introduced on May 11, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 3471 - Axne, Cynthia (D-IA) Introduced: 5/25/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Workforce Investment Disclosure Act of 2021. Requires public companies to disclose basic human capital metrics, including workforce turnover rates, skills and development training, workforce health and safety, workforce engagement, and compensation statistics.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 5/25/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

Note: Incorporated into H.R. 1187 (Vargas D-CA). S. 1815 (Warner D-VA) is companion legislation that was introduced on May 25, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 3684 - DeFazio, Peter A. (D-OR) Signed into law by the President: 11/15/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. A bipartisan package that provides approximately \$550 billion in new federal funding for physical infrastructure. Specifically, it provides \$283.5 billion in transportation funding, including, but not limited to, \$110 for road and bridge projects, \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail projects, \$39.2 billion for public transit projects, and \$11 billion to support infrastructure for electric, zero-emission, and low-emission vehicles. Additionally, the bill includes \$239 billion in other infrastructure funding, including, but not limited to, \$73 billion for power grid projects, \$65 billion for broadband infrastructure enhancements, and \$46 billion for cybersecurity and ecosystem restoration projects.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 11/15/2021 - Signed by the President. (Public Law No. 117-58).

H.R. 4040 - Cheney, Liz (R-WY) Introduced: 6/22/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act of 2021. Extends Medicare telehealth flexibilities until December 31, 2024, if the COVID-19 public health emergency ends before that date. It allows, among other things, beneficiaries to continue to receive telehealth services from any location, beneficiaries to continue to receive behavioral health services via audio-only technology, and for hospice physicians and nurse practitioners to continue to perform specified patient recertification activities via telehealth. The bill also delays implementation of certain in-person evaluation requirements for mental health telehealth services until January 1, 2025.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 7/28/2022 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4616 - Sherman, Brad (D-CA) Signed into law by the President: 7/22/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Adjustable Interest Rate (LIBOR) Act of 2021. Establishes a process for certain financial contracts that reference the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) and do not contain sufficient language that would allow them to continue to function as originally intended after LIBOR is discontinued, to instead reference Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), or an appropriately adjusted form of SOFR without the need to be amended or subject to litigation.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 3/3/2022 - Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing held.

Note: Incorporated into H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law No. 117-103) which, among other things, provided full-year funding through September 30, 2022, for projects and activities of the Federal Government.

H.R. 4617 - Sherman, Brad (D-CA) Introduced: 7/22/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Order Flow Improvement Act. Requires the SEC to study "payment for order flow" - the compensation a brokerage firm receives for routing investors' trades to market centers for trade execution - including conflicts of interest and the price and speed of trade executions. The bill also allows the SEC to issue rules prohibiting payment for order flow prior to the completion of the study if the SEC finds such a rule necessary to protect investors.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 7/29/2021 - Passed the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R. 4618 - Waters, Maxine (D-CA) Introduced: 7/22/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Short Sale Transparency and Market Fairness Act. Shortens the reporting period for "13-F" disclosures - filed by institutional investment managers with at least \$100 million in assets under management - from quarterly to monthly, requires such reports to be filed within 10 days of the end of each month, expands the list of items to be disclosed to include certain derivatives, directs the SEC to complete rulemaking that requires aggregate short positions to be disclosed on form 13F, and directs the SEC to study and report the use of confidential filing requests.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 7/29/2021 - Passed the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R. 5376 - Yarmuth, John A. (D-KY) Signed into law by the President: 8/16/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. A "budget reconciliation bill" that includes major health care, tax, energy, and climate provisions. Among other health care provisions, the bill requires HHS to negotiate the price of certain prescription drugs under Medicare, with the number of drugs first subject to negotiation increasing from 10 to 20 per year between 2026 and 2029. The bill also caps the annual Medicare Part D out-of-pocket limit for beneficiaries at \$2,000, caps cost-sharing of insulin for Medicare beneficiaries at \$35 a month, and requires drug manufacturers to issue rebates to HHS for certain drugs under Medicare if the cost of the drug increases higher than inflation. The bill also continues to delay, until 2032, implementation of an HHS rule related to safe harbor exemptions for Medicare Part D rebates. Among other tax provisions, the bill establishes a 15% alternative minimum tax for corporations with a "book income" of at least \$1 billion annually and institutes a 1% excise tax on corporate stock buybacks. Among other climate provisions, the bill promotes energy-efficient technologies through grants to state, local, and nonprofit entities for greenhouse gas emission reduction activities, creates and expands tax credits to incentivize actions by businesses and individuals to mitigate climate change, including production credits for electricity produced by renewable facilities, and establishes tax credits for carbon oxide sequestration.

Action Taken: Reviewing for potential impacts to CalPERS.

Status: 8/16/2022 - Signed by the President. (Public Law No. 117-169).

H.R. 5585 - Eshoo, Anna G. (D-CA) Introduced: 10/15/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Advanced Research Project Agency–Health (ARPA-H) Act. Establishes, within HHS, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Health to accelerate innovation in health and medicine. The agency is required to coordinate with the FDA and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to expedite development and coverage of high-need cures. The agency is also required to develop and periodically update a strategic plan and annually report on its activities.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 6/23/2022 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 7066 - Sherman, Brad (D-CA) Introduced: 3/11/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Russia and Belarus Financial Sanctions Act. Requires U.S. financial institutions to ensure entities and persons owned or controlled by the institution comply with financial sanctions on the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus to the same extent as the institution itself.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 5/12/2022 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Note: The amendments clarify that foreign subsidiaries of U.S. financial firms are also responsible for complying with U.S. financial sanctions. The bill would apply to any sanctions or restrictions directed at the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, including conducting transactions, accepting deposits, granting, transferring or holding credit or loans, buying or selling foreign securities or derivatives, finding buyers or sellers for those assets, or any other good or service performed by a U.S. financial institution.

H.R. 7594 - Beatty, Joyce (D-OH) Introduced: 4/27/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Too Narrow to Succeed Act. Requires federally controlled trusts and retirement plans that use externally managed funds to report annually on usage of diverse-owned and run asset management firms; directs the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) Advisory Council to consider barriers to usage of diverse asset management firms among private-sector retirement plans, and methods to overcome such barriers; requires the Department of Labor to conduct a survey of best practices and issue a report to implement strategies to improve access to diverse-owned asset management firms.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 4/27/2022 - Referred to six House committees, including the House Committee on Financial Services.

Note: S. 4097 (Kaine D-VA) is companion legislation that was introduced on April 27, 2022. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

H.R. 7666 - Pallone, Frank, Jr. (D-NJ) Introduced: 5/6/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022. Reauthorizes programs relating to mental health and substance use disorders. Among other things, provides grants to states totaling \$10 million over five years to enforce mental health and substance use disorder insurance coverage parity provisions in the Affordable Care Act. It also requires HHS to establish standards for substance use disorder training to ensure prescribers of addictive medications are educated on evidence-based addiction prevention and treatment, and establish a maternal mental health task force that would issue regular reports on the status of maternal health nationwide, including strategies and recommendations to eliminate disparities among minority populations. It also requires HHS to award grants to develop, expand, and enhance national, statewide, and community-focused virtual peer-support mental health programs.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 6/23/2022 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 7667 - Eshoo, Anna G. (D-CA) Introduced: 5/6/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Food and Drug Amendments of 2022. Reauthorizes the FDA's ability to collect fees from brand drug, generic drug, biosimilar and medical device manufacturers, which are used to hire staff to more expeditiously review product applications, through fiscal year 2027. The bill allows the FDA to approve a generic drug that has labeling differences with the name brand product, under certain conditions and requires HHS to establish a program facilitating the adoption of innovative drug development strategies. For drugs that treat conditions which, because they are so rare, would not be profitable to develop without government assistance, the bill also clarifies that the market exclusivity related to these "orphan drugs" only applies to the drug's approved use, and not the broader condition.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 6/9/2022 - Received in the Senate.

Note: S. 4348 (Murray D-WA) is companion legislation that was introduced on May 26, 2022, and passed out of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on July 13, 2022. Staff is monitoring the negotiations to reconcile these bills.

H.R. 8521 - Huizenga, Bill (R-MI) Introduced: 7/27/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Investor Democracy is Expected (INDEX) Act. Requires investment advisers of passively managed funds to vote proxies in accordance with the instruction of the fund's investors, and not at the discretion of the adviser.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 7/27/2022 - Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

Note: S. 4241 (Sullivan R-AK) is companion legislation that was introduced on May 18, 2022. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 588 - Feinstein, Dianne (D-CA) Introduced: 3/4/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Addressing Climate Financial Risk Act of 2021. Establishes the Climate Risk Advisory Committee that must consult with the U.S. Treasury Department's Financial Stability Oversight Council regarding a report on the impact of climate risk on U.S. financial stability. Additionally, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration must include climate risk in the guidance provided to supervised financial institutions.

Action Taken: Sent a letter to Senator Feinstein expressing support for this bill on March 5, 2021.

Status: 3/4/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Note: H.R. 1549 (Casten D-IL) is companion legislation that was introduced on March 3, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 808 - Reed, Jack (D-RI) Introduced: 3/17/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Cybersecurity Disclosure Act of 2021. Requires the SEC to issue final rules requiring publicly traded companies to disclose whether any member of its governing body has expertise or experience in cybersecurity in its mandatory annual report or annual proxy statement. If no member has such expertise or experience, the company must describe what other company cybersecurity steps were taken into account by the persons responsible for identifying and evaluating nominees for the governing body.

Action Taken: Sent a letter to Senator Reed expressing support for this bill on April 2, 2021.

Status: 9/14/2021 - Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing held.

Note: House version (Himes D-CT) incorporated into H.R. 1187 (Vargas D-CA).

S. 817 - Schatz, Brian (D-HI) Introduced: 3/18/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Wall Street Tax Act of 2021. Imposes a 0.1% "financial transaction tax" on trades of stocks, bonds, and derivatives.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 3/18/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Note: H.R. 328 (DeFazio D-OR) is companion legislation that was introduced on January 15, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 909 - Sanders, Bernard (I-VT) Introduced: 3/23/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Prescription Drug Price Relief Act of 2021. Requires the HHS Secretary to annually identify the list of "excessively priced" patented, brand name drugs that are being sold in the U.S. at prices higher than the median price in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Japan. If the U.S. price of a patented brand name drug exceeds the median price of the drug in other countries, or if the Secretary otherwise determines the drug to be excessively priced, the bill requires the Secretary to allow generic drug manufacturers to make more affordable versions of the drug.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 3/23/2021 - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions' Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security hearing held.

Note: H.R. 2148 (Khanna D-CA) is companion legislation that was introduced on March 23, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 1388 - Grassley, Chuck (R-IA) Introduced: 4/27/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Prescription Pricing for the People Act of 2021. Requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to study the role of intermediaries, like pharmacy benefit managers, in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 7/29/2021 - Passed the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1425 - Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN) Introduced: 4/28/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Stop STALLING Act. Enables the FTC to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar and facilitates the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith that raise legitimate public health concerns. The bill would also enable the FTC to levy fines or sue manufacturers in court.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 12/8/2021 - Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 179.

Note: H.R. 2883 (Jeffries D-NY) is companion legislation that was introduced on April 28, 2021 and passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on September 29, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 1428 - Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN) Introduced: 4/28/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act. Authorizes the FTC to initiate proceedings against drug companies that are parties to any agreement resolving or settling a patent infringement claim in connection with the sale of a drug or biological product (also known as "pay-for-delay" agreements).

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 12/9/2021 - Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 180.

Note: H.R. 2891 (Nadler D-NY) is companion legislation that was introduced on April 28, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 1435 - Cornyn, John (R-TX) Introduced: 4/28/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act of 2021. Empowers the FTC to curtail drug "product hopping," a practice where brand name drug manufacturers seek to extend their market exclusivity on an expiring patented drug by developing a slightly modified version of the drug.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 7/29/2021 - Passed the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Note: H.R. 2873 (Cicilline D-RI) is companion legislation that was introduced on April 28, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 1598 - Baldwin, Tammy (D-WI) Introduced: 5/12/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Carried Interest Fairness Act of 2021. Modifies the tax treatment of carried interest, which is compensation that is typically received by a partner of a private equity or hedge fund for investment management services and is based on a share of the fund's profits. Under current law, carried interest is taxed as investment income rather than at ordinary income tax rates. The bill would, among other things, set forth a special rule for the inclusion in gross income of partnership interests transferred in connection with the performance of services, and treat as ordinary income the net capital gain with respect to an investment services partnership interest, as specified. The bill also defines "investment services partnership interest" as any interest in a partnership held by a person who provides services to a partnership by (1) advising the partnership about investing in, purchasing, or selling specified assets; (2) managing, acquiring, or disposing of specified assets; or (3) arranging financing with respect to acquiring specified assets.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 5/12/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Note: H.R. 1068 (Pascrell D-NJ) is companion legislation that was introduced on February 15, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 2617 - Wyden, Ron (D-OR) Introduced: 8/5/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

Ending the Carried Interest Loophole Act. Eliminates carried interest, a form of compensation received by certain partners in private equity, real estate, or hedge funds for investment management services. Under current law, such compensation can be deferred from taxation until income is realized by the partnership and then taxed at investment income tax rates. The bill eliminates a partner's ability to defer tax on such compensation, and requires it be taxed at ordinary income tax rates.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 8/5/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

S. 3733 - Rubio, Marco (R-FL) Introduced: 3/2/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

IMPAIR Russia Act. Prohibits institutional investors, as defined, from purchasing a security issued by an entity organized under the laws of the Russian Federation or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 3/2/2022 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S. 4353 - Murray, Patty (D-WA) Introduced: 6/7/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Retirement Improvement and Savings Enhancement to Supplement Healthy Investments for the Nest Egg (RISE & SHINE) Act. An ERISA-focused retirement bill that, among other things, increases the limit that employers may transfer former employees' retirement accounts from a workplace retirement plan into an IRA, allows retirement plan fiduciaries the choice to decide not to recoup overpayments that were mistakenly made to retirees — if plan fiduciaries choose to recoup overpayments, then they may not recoup interest or other additional amounts (such as collection costs or fees) on the overpaid amounts, provides private employers the ability to opt employees into emergency savings accounts, requires the Department of Labor (DOL), Treasury, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to review reporting and disclosure requirements for retirement plans and make recommendations to Congress to improve such requirements, requires DOL to review its fiduciary disclosure requirements in participant-directed individual account plan regulations, and requires DOL to study the impact of inflation on retirement savings.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 6/21/2022 - Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 426.

Note: H.R. 2954 (Neal D-MA) and S. 4808 (Wyden D-OR) are companion bills that have been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance and passed the Senate Committee on Finance, respectively. Staff is monitoring the negotiations to reconcile the three bills.

S. 4524 - Gillibrand, Kirsten E. (D-NY) Introduced: 7/13/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Speak Out Act. Bans predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to sexual assault and sexual harassment disputes where the conduct is alleged to have violated Federal, Tribal, or State law.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 9/30/2022 - Received in the House. Held at the desk.

Note: H.R. 8227 (Frankel D-FL) is companion legislation that was introduced on June 24, 2022, and passed out of the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 13, 2022. Staff is monitoring this companion legislation.

S. 4808 - Wyden, Ron (D-OR) Introduced: 9/8/2022

CalPERS Position: N/A

Enhancing American Retirement Now (EARN) Act. Among other things, increases the individual retirement account required minimum distribution age from 72 to 75, offers individuals ages 60 through 63 additional "catchup" contribution opportunities as they approach retirement, allows 401(a) qualified plans, 403(a) annuity plans, 403(b) tax sheltered annuity plans, and governmental plans to fail to cover "inadvertent benefit overpayments" and limits recoveries to within 3 years of the overpayment, allows penalty-free withdrawals for certain emergency expenses, and allows government retirement plans to distribute up to \$3,000 annually on a tax-free basis directly to certain eligible retired public safety officers for payment of qualified health insurance premiums, and not directly to the insurer as had previously been required.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 9/8/2022 - Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 480.

Note: H.R. 2954 (Neal D-MA) and S. 4353 (Murray D-WA) are companion bills that have been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance and passed the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, respectively. Staff is monitoring the negotiations to reconcile the three bills.

S.Con.Res. 14 - Sanders, Bernard (I-VT) Introduced: 8/9/2021

CalPERS Position: N/A

FY 2022 Budget Reconciliation Package. A \$3.5 trillion resolution that sets forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal year 2022 and sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031. While the contents of the resolution are still being negotiated, reports indicate that the resolution may include language allowing the federal government to negotiate Medicare drug prices with the understanding that negotiating would bring about lower prices and with the savings used to expand Medicare to provide dental, hearing, and vision benefits and to lower Medicare's eligibility age. The resolution may also include tax incentives to promote clean energy, manufacturing, and transportation. The resolution may be paid for by raising taxes on corporations and individuals earning over \$400,000 per year.

Action Taken: Monitoring

Status: 8/24/2021 - Passed the House.

Note: With the enactment of H.R. 5376 (Yarmuth D-KY), the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, this budget reconciliation package is no longer eligible for further action this Congress.

S.J.Res. 16 - Brown, Sherrod (D-OH) Introduced: 3/25/2021

CalPERS Position: Support

Congressional Review Act Resolution. Disapproves the rule adopted by the SEC relating to "Procedural Requirements and Resubmission Thresholds Under Exchange Act Rule 14a–8" regarding minimum requirements for shareholder proposals.

Action Taken: Sent a letter to Senator Brown expressing support for this resolution on May 4, 2021.

Status: 3/25/2021 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Note: H.J.Res. 36 (San Nicolas D-GU) is the companion resolution that was introduced on March 26, 2021. Staff is monitoring this companion resolution and sent a letter to Del. San Nicolas expressing support on May 5, 2021.