

PRIORITY FOCUS



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HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL HELD IN SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Senate Health Committee failed to pass ABX1 1 (Núñez) on Monday, Jan. 28. The healthcare reform legislation, which was supported by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, was the culmination of more than a year of discussion and negotiations. The legislation was designed to cover 3.7 million uninsured Californians. *For more, see Page 2.*

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THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION PROPOSES INMATE POPULATION REDUCTION PROGRAM

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) released two state prison inmate and parolee population reduction program proposals in January to address widespread inmate overcrowding as well as potential major Department budget cuts. *For more, see Page 2.*

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MOBILEHOME VACANCY DECONTROL BILL DIES ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 29, AB 1309 (Calderon) died on the Assembly floor. The bill would have provided that if a tenancy in a mobilehome park was voluntarily terminated, the management could then set the initial rent for a space when there was a change in ownership of the mobilehome on that space. *For more, see Page 3.*

'Healthcare Reform Bill' Continued from Page 1...

The bill failed to move out of the committee for several reasons. A review by the Legislative Analyst's Office questioned whether the cost of the program would exceed the expected revenue generated through a companion initiative which had been filed with the Attorney General for title and summary. The initiative proposed a variety of mechanisms to fund the health care proposal including an increase of the cigarette tax and fees required to be paid by employers.

In addition to the cost issues, legislators were concerned about the level and quality of services that would be provided through this program; they also lacked the ability to amend the bill because it was tied to various provisions of the proposed initiative.

After ABX1 1 was defeated, Assembly Speaker Núñez did not request that the bill be provided an opportunity for reconsideration. This technically limits this bill's future ability to move forward.

The League will continue to monitor all new healthcare reform legislation and provide updates through *Priority Focus* and the League's Web site.

'Prisoner Release' Continued from Page 1...

Although the proposals are currently in draft form and are not for consideration by the Legislature, concerns about the public safety impact to cities are growing. City officials will want to understand the parameters of these proposals. Below is a summary of the sentence reduction and summary parole proposals.

Sentence Reduction Proposal

The first proposal would reduce the sentences for all state prison inmates by 20 months with exceptions for inmates who committed unlawful acts including violent or serious felonies, possession of deadly or dangerous weapons, sex offenses requiring sex offender registration, hate crimes, burglary, cocaine or heroin distribution, or forced labor, among other offenses.

Ineligibility for the 20 month sentence reduction program applies to persons who are currently in state prison serving a sentence for committing a disqualifying offense, have committed a disqualifying offense while in prison (regardless of conviction status), have ever been convicted for a disqualifying offense, or have ever been convicted of any offense in another jurisdiction that would meet the criteria of a disqualifying offense.

Summary Parole Proposal

The second proposal would create "summary parole" in which an individual is under the jurisdiction of the CDCR but is not subject to regular and active supervision. Summary parole applies to all inmates upon completion of their term in state prison, except for those who served a sentence for a violent or serious felony, including murder, mayhem, rape, lewd or lascivious acts, or a threat of great bodily harm, or serious felonies involving dangerous or deadly weapons. In addition, individuals who are required to register as a sex offender are not eligible for summary parole.

The parole authority may revoke an individual's summary parole status and order that person return to prison only upon conviction of a new offense, meaning parole violations are not applicable to summary parolees.

While summary parolees are not under regular and active supervision, they are subject to drug testing and search and seizure, with or without a warrant, at the request of any peace officer in the performance of his or her duties.

In addition, an individual will be released from summary parole if he or she has been continuously on summary parole for one year, unless the CDCR recommends to the Board of Parole Hearings to retain that person on parole.

AB 1309 would have undercut the authority of local rent control ordinances for mobilehome parks, which would result in cities losing an important source of affordable housing.

The author did not take the bill up for a vote in the Assembly most likely due to lack of support. In order to have moved to the Senate, AB 1309 would have needed to pass off the Assembly floor by Jan. 31. Because the bill was never taken up for a floor vote, it automatically died.

The League wishes to thank everyone who called their legislator to ask for an "oppose" on this controversial bill.

Nominate an Outstanding Leader for the 2008 California Civic Leadership Institute

The nomination process is open for the League's 2008 California Civic Leadership Institute (CCLI). Now in its fourth year, CCLI is an educational program focused on key state level issues for elected city officials who are interested in pursuing state office in the future.

Last year, 15 city officials participated in top-notch programs led by prominent leaders and experts in public policy and politics in California. Because of the program's impact, CCLI has been expanded for 2008 to offer more sessions throughout the year, including sessions open to CCLI alumni.

Program Details

Presented by the League Partners Program, CCLI exposes city officials to a variety of complex statewide priorities including transportation, housing, impact of increasing energy demand on our growing state, tribal issues and disaster preparedness. The program is designed to give local leaders a broad, in-depth understanding of critical issues affecting the state, illuminate the invaluable tools they will need to succeed if elected to the Legislature, and provide a forum where lasting bonds can be created among California's rising leaders.

Instead of just a standard classroom program, CCLI features informal roundtable discussions and takes participants out in the field. The program includes a tour of Big Creek, Southern California Edison's hydro-electric facility, giving participants the opportunity to see first hand how electricity is generated and moved throughout the state.

This year's program is ideal for those already within leadership roles at the League, or for anyone interested in becoming a statewide advocate of local government.

Nomination Process

Any mayor, council member or professional city staff may nominate a current elected city official to participate in CCLI. Nominations may also come from any of the League's constituency groups, or from the League Partners Program.

Nominations must successfully convey the governance skills and accomplishments of the nominee, and should highlight any and all contributions toward League goals and/or the League's mission of protecting local control. Nominees will be sent an application packet. Applicants will be asked to compose an essay outlining their individual goals and interests in the program.

Nominations are due Friday, Feb. 29 by 5 p.m.

The nomination form can be found at www.cacities.org/leaguepartners. Submit entries to Samantha Caygill by email at scaygill@cacities.org or by fax at (916) 658-8240.

Proposition 1B Bond Implementation Matrix Available

The League has created a matrix outlining progress of guideline development and fund allocation status to assist cities with tracking the numerous Proposition 1B (2006) programs.

This resource is available online through the League infrastructure page. Adrienne- Here is the link to the infrastructure page <http://www.cacities.org/infrastructure>.

Infill Infrastructure Bond Application Workshops Scheduled for February

Housing and Community Development (HCD) has scheduled application workshops in February for the Infill Incentive Grant Program.

Proposition 1C (2006) included \$850 million in bonds for housing. The FY 2007-08 budget appropriated \$300 million of the funds. HCD is appropriating \$240 million and the other \$60 million is being appropriated by the CALReUSE program for brownfield cleanup.

HCD's February workshops will address the appropriation of the \$240 million (an additional \$550 million in this account remains to be appropriated in future years).

The application process is expected to be very competitive for these funds. In addition to local agencies, developers, nonprofit housing builders, and business improvement districts are eligible for funding. The League strongly encourages those agencies planning on applying for funds to attend these workshops.

Workshop Schedule

Feb. 6, 1-4 p.m.

The State Building
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 1036 and 1002
Fresno

Feb. 8, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Elihu M. Harris Building
1515 Clay Street, Room 1 and 2
Oakland

Feb. 19, 1-4 p.m.

Neighborhood Community Center
1845 Park Ave., Adams Room and Harper Room
Costa Mesa

Feb. 22, 1-4 p.m.

VCGCB Building
400 R Street, Sacramento River Room
Sacramento

HCD has a matrix with complete information on the workshops. Adrienne—Please link (http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/Bond_Program_Workshops.pdf)

Register Now for February Green Purchasing Seminars

The next round of green purchasing seminars is scheduled for three Southern California cities in February. Sponsored by the League, U.S. Communities and the California State Association of Counties, these seminars will feature local and national experts on green purchasing best practices.

The seminars are free to attend and lunch will be provided.

Seminar Details

Feb. 19, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

OC Sailing and Event Center
34451 Ensenada Place, Dana Point

Feb. 20, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

San Diego County Administrative Center
1600 Pacific Coast Highway, San Diego

Feb. 22, 10:00 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Riverside County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street, Riverside

Please contact Laura Li for more information or to register. She can be reached by e-mail lli@counties.org or by phone (916) 327-7500 ext. 560.

Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) Web page (www.cacities.org/legresources). You'll find a roster and contact information for the League's legislative staff; the online Bill Search program, background materials on lobbying your legislators, and more.
