## **STATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

Kathy Sharp, Chairperson

Erich Myers, Vice Chairperson

DeWayne Sheaffer, Board Liaison

Charlotte Svolos, Recording Secretary

Lori Easterling, Consultant

Efrain Mercado, Consultant

Toni Trigueiro, Consultant

MAJOR POLICY – Immediate Action (2/3rd Vote Required)

A. None

Major policy – First Reading (or – Second Reading)

1. None

# OTHER ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. None

referrals to the board of directors

1. None

matters pending

A. None

informational items

1. The State Legislation Committee opened nominations and re-elected the following individuals for their leadership positions for 2020-21:

Chair – Kathy Sharp

Vice-Chair – Erich Myers

Recording Secretary – Charlotte Svolos

2. Continuing discussions on revisions to the interim position procedures.

3. Revision of CCA procedures referred to the committee by the Policy Review and

Organizational Committee.

4. The State Legislation Committee recognizes Kelly Flores and Ed Gomez for their many years of service to the State Council of Education. We wish them the best.

5. Since March 17, CTA has taken 96 interim positions on legislation. To view CTA’s current positions on legislation, please visit: <https://www.cta.org/our-advocacy/cta-bill-positions>

**LEGISLATIVE TERMS:**

**Amend:**
To alter formally by modification, deletion, or addition.

**Appropriation:**
A legislative authorization to make expenditures and incur obligations for specific governmental purposes; usually limited as to time when it may be expended. One of the prime responsibilities of the Legislature is this power to ***appropriate*** moneys.

**Companion Bill:**
Two bills identical in wording that are introduced in each house. They will most likely not have the same number. Some companion bill sponsors feel it will increase the chances for the passage of the bill.

**Legislative Deadlines:**
Deadline set by a legislative body for specified action, such as bill introduction, committee action, or initial passage of bills by either house.

**Effective Date**:
The date a bill, once passed, becomes law. Unless a different date is specified, bills become law when approved.

**Floor:**
Reference to the interior of the chamber of either house. Floor action suggests consideration by the Assembly or Senate rather than committee action.

**Held in Committee:**
The defeat of a measure by the decision of a standing committee not to return it to the full house for further consideration.

**Pull:**

The act of removing a specific legislative bill from an inclusive list for the purpose of review, discussion, change a position, etc.

**Reconsideration**:
A motion that, if carried, allows a measure that failed or passed to be heard again in committee or on the Floor. This more commonly occurs when a bill has failed passage on third reading on the floor where the author/presenter will “notice reconsideration” upon the final tally of the votes. However, it does occasionally happen during the committee process as well.

**Resolution**:
A measure expressing the will, wish, or direction of the Legislature. It does not have the effect of law.

**Resolution-Concurrent Resolution:**
A resolution which requests action or states the Legislature's position on an issue.

**Resolution-Memorial Resolution:**
A nonsubstantive resolution used to convey the sympathy and condolences of the Legislature on the passing of a constituent or a dignitary.

**Spot Bill:**

A spot bill is a proposal not fully developed or containing sufficient information necessary to make a determination to support or suppose.

**Sunset Law**:
A provision shutting off a program or agency on a specific date, requiring reexamination and a fresh authorization prior to that date to continue.

**Urgency:**
An urgency measure goes into effect immediately once passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. This type of measure requires a 2/3 vote.

**Veto:**
A power vested in the governor to prevent the enactment of measures passed by the Legislature by returning them, with objections, to the Legislature.

***\*CAPITOL SPEAK: For those unfamiliar to the legislative process, phrases used can appear to be from a different language. The inclusion of Capitol Speak descriptions below are provided to assist you in understanding the legislative arena.***

***Across the desk:***

*When a bill or amendment is officially introduced. Common to hear staffers or third house members ask: “Is that across the desk yet?”*

***Blue pencil:***

*The governor’s line-item veto. Dreaded by legislators hoping to protect spending priorities.*

***District bill:***

*Legislation addressing a specific local or district issue of the legislator carrying the bill. If approved, legislation applicable in the district only.*

***Dog House:***

*The Legislature’s smallest office, located on the sixth floor and generally assigned to an Assembly member who has angered leadership.*

***Free Ride:***

*To run for a different office when your current elected position is not up for re-election. If you lose, you retain your current elected position.*

***Gut and Amend:***

*To hollow out an existing bill and fill it with new language. A good way to sneak in new (or old, previously defeated) bills late in a session****.***

***Hijack:***

*To insert an existing legislative measure into a new bill. For example, transplanting a legislative measure authored by a member of one political party into a different legislative measure by a member of a different political party and claiming ownership.*

***Interim Study:***

*A common tactic to kill bills without the messiness of a vote. Rather than vote against a legislative measure, legislature decide to study it more – after the session ends.*

***“I wasn’t going to speak today”:***

*The most common sentence lawmakers say before they begin to speak.*

***Job killer:***

*Description of legislative measures identified by the California Chamber of Commerce, Republicans and moderate Democrats as adversely impacting the creation, availability, and duration of employment opportunities in CA. (Typically affixed to priorities of organized labor, environmentalists, and other Democratic allies.*

***Juice Committee:***

*Committee that oversees wealthy or politically potent industries. Membership guarantees a steady revenue of campaign contributions*

***Jungle primary:***

*Derisive nickname for the top-two primaries, in which top two vote getters advance to general election regardless of political party.*

***Lay off:***

*To avoid voting on a controversial bill. Effectively the same as a no vote, for purposes of passing a bill but can look better politically. Synonym for “take a walk.” A practice more associated with political moderates of either political party.*

***May revision (or the ungrammatical “May revise”):***

*Common term for governor’s May budget proposal. Unlike the January budget proposal, it reflects new tax revenue (April 15 tax submission deadline) and therefore offers the starting point for serious budget talks.*

***Mod:***

*A moderate Democrat. Friendly to business interests and irritant to Democratic leadership.*

***On call:***

*When the voting roll remains open after an initial count falls short of the needed number for passage, the bill is on call.*

***Per Diem session:***

*Typically held on Fridays before a holiday weekend, these often-brief floor sessions fulfill the requirement to meet every three days which allows legislators to keep their tax-free $168-a-day “per diem” stipend.*

***Poison pill:***

*An amendment added to a bill so it will become indefensible and die.*

***Robust:***

*The only type of debate that occurs in the Legislature.*

***Roll (verb):***

*If you get a bill out of committee whose chair opposes it, you have “rolled” the chair. A good way to lose your committee membership.*

***Speakerize:***

*When the Assembly speaker intervenes on a controversial bill either to kill it or to ensure it advances.*

***Sponsor:***

*An outside entity that writes a bill and then gets a legislator to carry the bill. Not always “candid” about its role.*

***Spot bill:***

*A placeholder bill that remains devoid of detail until a legislator decides content.*

***Stakeholder:***

*Anyone who wants something. Always seem to be meeting somewhere about something. Generally, synonym for “interest group.”*

***Suspense File:***

*Holding place for legislation that will cost more than a specified amount of money. Many bills never make if off the Appropriations Suspense file. Another useful way to let a bill quietly die.*

***Third house:***

*Sacramento’s lobbying corps, so named because some see them – and the special interests they’re paid to represent – as a coequal third branch of the Legislature.*

***Trailer bill:***

*Legislation that implements a specific part of the budget after the budget itself has passed. A useful way to change policy via the budget process.*

***Two-year bill:***

*A bill that stalls in the first year of the legislative session and must wait another year.*

***Urgency clause:***

*A designation that makes a bill take effect immediately after it is signed instead of the following Jan. 1. Requires a two-thirds vote.*

***Work the floor:***

*When a legislator moves from desk to desk in the Assembly or Senate to talk to colleagues to garner support.*

*\*Special acknowledgment to Sacramento Bee reporters Jeremy White and Alexei Koseff for their contributions.*