State Legislative Roundup: Bills by Our Local Democratic Lawmakers

San Diego County's Democratic lawmakers have been working hard in Sacramento. As a group, they are distinguished by their strong leadership. Individually, they've authored bills, funded priorities, and taken the lead on a wide range of issues important to Californians.

Below are highlights of 25 out of the nearly 50 bills that our local legislators have authored to transform our priorities into meaningful polices. As of 6/24/15, Senate and Assembly Committees are working on these bills as part of the legislative process. Please click on the bill numbers below for the complete text and official analysis.

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Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins, 78th Assembly District
District includes: The 78th Assembly District, includes Imperial Beach, Coronado, Del Mar, Solana Beach, and the San Diego neighborhoods of Downtown, Hillcrest, North Park, Normal Heights, Kensington, Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, La Jolla and University City.

Partial Bill List:

- **AB 96** – Animal parts and products: importation or sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn: This bill aims to eliminate consumption of ivory products in California by closing loopholes in existing California law that bans the sale of ivory.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Senate’s Natural Resources and Water Committee.

- **AB 1056** – Second Chance Program: This bill aims to reduce prison recidivism by using Prop. 47 savings to help get former inmates into stable homes.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Senate’s Public Safety Committee.

- **AB 1071** – Supplemental environmental projects: This legislation requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to establish a Supplemental Environmental Project or policy to assist environmental-justice communities by investing funds directly in these neighborhoods.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Senate’s Environmental Quality Committee.
- **AB 1335 – Building Homes and Jobs Act**: This bill creates a permanent funding source for affordable homes.
  - **Status**: This bill is on its Third Reading in the Assembly.
- **AB 1407 – Family law: protective orders: wireless telephone numbers**: This bill authorizes a court to direct a wireless telephone service provider to transfer billing rights and responsibility to a requesting party in domestic-violence cases.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Senate’s Judiciary Committee.

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**Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber, 79th Assembly District**
District includes: Chula Vista, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City and San Diego neighborhoods of Linda Vista, Mission Valley, Serra Mesa, Allied Gardens, San Carlos, Rolando, and College Area.

Partial Bill List:
- **AB 66 - Police Body Worn Cameras Best Practices**: This bill aims to develop minimum statewide guidelines in regards to the best practices for the use of police body worn cameras.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Assembly’s Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 713 - Mandatory Kindergarten in California**: This measure requires mandatory kindergarten for the state’s schoolchildren. Many Californians are surprised to learn that kindergarten is actually not mandatory in the state.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Senate’s Education Committee.
- **ACR 49 - The Senior Bill of Rights**: Declares the Legislature’s intent to uphold and protect the dignity and independence of older Californians.
- **AB 1000 - Student Success Fee**: This bill would prohibit a campus of the California State University (CSU), or the Chancellor of the California State University, from imposing a student success fee, unless certain requirements are met.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Senate’s Education Committee.
- **AB 619 - Use of Force**: This bill enhances transparency on law enforcement’s use-of-force practices by improving public access to information concerning deaths in custody and uses of force that result in serious bodily injury.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Assembly’s Appropriations Committee.

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**Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, 80th Assembly District**
District Includes: Chula Vista, National City and the San Diego neighborhoods of City Heights, Barrio Logan, Paradise Hills, San Ysidro and Otay Mesa.

Partial Bill List:
- **AB 60 - Immigration services**: This bill cracks down on immigration scams by unscrupulous lawyers
and notaries and clarifies existing protections against fraud.
  - **Status:** The Governor signed this bill on June 17.

- **AB 202 - Cheerleader pay:** This bill provides that specified professional sports cheerleaders shall be deemed to be employees for state employment law purposes, extending to them the benefits they deserve for their hard work.
  - **Status:** This bill is on its Second Reading in the Senate.

- **AB 305 - Gender bias in workers comp:** This bill prohibits the use of certain gender-related characteristics in the calculation of permanent disability benefits.
  - **Status:** This bill is the Senate’s Labor and Industrial Relations Committee.

- **AB 1266 - Utility executive bonuses, public accountability:** This bill prohibits an electrical or gas corporation from recovering costs from ratepayers for expenses from excess compensation paid to an officer of the utility following violation of a federal or state safety regulation.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Senate’s Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee.

- **AB 1461 - New Motor Voter:** This bill requires the Secretary of State to register every person who has a driver’s license or state identification card and who is eligible to register to vote, unless that person opts out.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Senate’s Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee.

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**State Senator Marty Block, 39th District**

District Includes: Coronado, Del Mar, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, and the San Diego neighborhoods of Downtown, Old Town, Hillcrest, North Park, College Area, Clairemont, Point Loma, Pacific Beach, La Jolla, Mira Mesa, and Rancho Bernardo.

**Partial Bill List:**

- **SB 15 - Higher Education Funding:** This bill is a comprehensive plan to improve access to higher education in California, help students afford college and finish their degrees in four years, including eliminating proposed tuition increases for UC students.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Assembly’s Higher Education Committee.

- **SB 352 - Elder Abuse: Protective Order:** This bill requires the court to consider issuing an order restraining a defendant convicted of elder abuse from any contact with the victim.
  - **Status:** This Bill is in the Assembly’s Appropriations Committee.

- **SB 456 - Campus Threats:** This bill criminalizes the making of a threat to commit a school shooting, whether directed to a specific individual, or whether posted on social media for an invited or general viewing population.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Assembly’s Appropriations Committee.

- **SB 589 - Voting Rights: Conservatorships:** This bill aims to ensure that people with disabilities are not denied their right to vote in California.
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Assembly’s Elections and Redistricting Committee.

- **SB 776 - Prostitution Solicitation Fines** This bill directs the sentencing court to impose a fine upon conviction of soliciting prostitution and provides that a portion of the fine shall be retained by the county and used to fund services to “victims of commercial sexual abuse.”
  - **Status:** This bill is in the Assembly’s Public Safety Committee.
State Senator Ben Hueso, 40th Senate District
District includes: Campo, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, Jamul, La Presa, National City, Imperial County and the San Diego neighborhoods of San Ysidro and Otay Mesa.

Partial Bill List:

- **SB 249 - Enhanced Driver's License**: This bill allows for the creation of an Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) to reduce border wait times and increase economic gain produced by efficient and secure cross-border travel.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Assembly's Transportation Committee.
- **SB 287 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Safety Act**: This bill requires newly-constructed buildings that can occupy a large number of people to have an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on the premise.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Assembly’s Business and Professions Committee.
- **SB 328 - Healthy Homes Enforcement**: This bill will require landlords to post written notification when using a pesticide.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Assembly’s Judiciary Committee.
- **SB 415 - California Voter Participation Rights Act**: This bill prohibits political jurisdictions from holding an election on a date other than the date of statewide primary and general elections if it results in a significant decrease in voter turnout.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Assembly's Elections and Redistricting Committee.
- **SB 481 - City Auditors**: This bill strengthens internal auditing standards for state and local agencies by prohibiting employees of agencies who perform audits from being supervised by the General Counsel of said agency.
  - **Status**: This bill is in the Assembly's Appropriations Committee.