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EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT ON PENDING LEGISLATION

As of 05/01/2023

# Administration and Finance

## [SB 544, Laird, As Amended](https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publishbillinfo.aspx?bi=u5LCNdmcZcnC0d%2BEgbdf35vwUBiVm0K%2FL87c%2BXYQes8CxA%2Br1kHS1At8bkt5BD9d)

***Status: Re-referred to Appropriation Committee***

This bill would amend existing law that will remain operative after July 1, 2023, to remove indefinitely the teleconference requirements that a state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and that each teleconference location be accessible to the public. The bill would require a state body to provide a means by which the public may remotely hear audio of the meeting, remotely observe the meeting, or attend the meeting by providing on the posted agenda a teleconference telephone number, an internet website or other online platform, and a physical address for at least one site, including, if available, access equivalent to the access for a member of the state body participating remotely.

The bill would require any notice required by the act to specify the applicable teleconference telephone number, internet website or other online platform, and physical address indicating how the public can access the meeting remotely and in person. The bill would revise existing law to no longer require that members of the public have the opportunity to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, but would continue to require that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly. The bill would require a member or staff to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

# Fire Protection/Fuel Management

## [AB 692, Patterson, As Introduced](https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publishbillinfo.aspx?bi=42Lt88vMxaj5xM%2B5Itfn44NSKl%2F7pmWTMTBrFDr1%2FoLPp3FBwnPsX3AL%2B0pJ%2BEOf)

***Status: Appropriations Committee suspense file***

This bill would, until January 1, 2030, exempt from CEQA egress route projects undertaken by a public agency to improve emergency access to and evacuation from a subdivision without a secondary egress route if the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has recommended the creation of a secondary access to the subdivision and certain conditions are met.

[SB 504, Dodd, As Amended](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB504)

***Status: Appropriations Committee, hearing on May 1***

Existing law requires fuels to be maintained and spaced in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. A violation of these requirements is a crime.

This bill would instead require fuels to be maintained and spaced in a condition so that a wildfire would be unlikely to ignite the structure.

# Forestry

## [AB 66, Mathis, As Amended](https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publishbillinfo.aspx?bi=doXdRpJk50l%2Fq%2BUZPFGZxBfuDu1VbFrgr4doUQlHVEkmziFqaA4ZvNWHM8jh1QdV)

***Status: Re-referred to Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife.***

Existing law establishes the Natural Resources Agency, composed of departments, boards, conservancies, and commissions responsible for the restoration, protection, and management of the state’s natural and cultural resources. Existing law establishes in the agency the Department of Water Resources, which manages and undertakes planning with regard to water resources in the state. This bill would require the agency, and each department, board, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to approve the necessary permits for specified projects that meet certain employment conditions within 180 days from receiving a permit application, and would deem those permits approved if approval does not occur within this time period.

[AB 1526, Committee on Natural Resources, As Amended](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1526)

***Status: Appropriations Committee***

The Z’berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations, as defined, unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The act authorizes the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to exempt from some or all of those provisions of the act a person engaging in specified forest management activities, as prescribed, including the one-time conversion of less than three acres to a nontimber use, as specified.

This bill would remove “one-time” from the above described exemption.

# Range Management Advisory Committee

## [SB 675,](https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publishbillinfo.aspx?bi=2KLHt3hqEy1VKI4rVSmQpd0abeCEizPdETKhlUj5scTpmnHNbEnRXRJG2QARHWSj) [[Limón](https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publishbillinfo.aspx?bi=2KLHt3hqEy1VKI4rVSmQpd0abeCEizPdETKhlUj5scTpmnHNbEnRXRJG2QARHWSj)](http://sd19.senate.ca.gov/)[, As Introduced](https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publishbillinfo.aspx?bi=2KLHt3hqEy1VKI4rVSmQpd0abeCEizPdETKhlUj5scTpmnHNbEnRXRJG2QARHWSj)

***Status: May be heard in committee March 16.***

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to appoint a Range Management Advisory Committee and to consult with the advisory committee on rangeland resource issues under consideration by the board.

The bill would require, on or before July 1, 2024, the advisory committee, in consultation with specified entities, to develop guidance for local or regional prescribed grazing plans, as provided. The bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (department) and the Department of Conservation to consider and incorporate, where appropriate, this guidance in specified grant programs, as provided.

Existing law requires the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, established by former Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy to track and ensure the achievement of the goals and key actions identified in the state’s “Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan,” as provided. Existing law requires, on or before January 1, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter, the task force to update the action plan.

This bill would require the task force, on or before June 30, 2025, in consultation with the advisory committee, to develop a strategic action plan to expand the use of prescribed grazing, as provided. The bill would require the task force to consider incorporating prescribed grazing in the January 1, 2026, update to the “Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.”

# Forest Biomass [*AB 625, Aguiar-Curry, As Amended*](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB625)

***Status: Appropriations Committee, hearing postponed***

This bill would establish the Forest Biomass Waste Utilization Program to be administered by the state board’s Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation to develop an implementation plan to meet the goals and recommendations of, and the comprehensive framework to align with the state’s wood utilization policies and priorities and focused market strategy of, specified statewide forest management plans, and to develop a workforce training program to complement the workforce needs associated with the implementation plan.