

AB 664 (Cooper) is a two-year bill that dealt with determining permanent incapacity of 1937 Act members employed as peace officers. It was gutted and amended on April 17, as an urgency statute, to deal with injuries or death caused by COVID-19. This bill would define “injury,” under workers’ compensation law for certain state and local firefighting personnel, peace officers, certain hospital employees, and certain fire and rescue services coordinators who work for the Office of Emergency Services to include being exposed to or contracting, on or after January 1, 2020, a communicable disease, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), that is the subject of a state or local declaration of a state of emergency that was issued on or after January 1, 2020. It would also create a conclusive presumption that the injury arose out of and in the course of the employment and would apply to injuries that occurred prior to the declaration of the state of emergency. The bill is at the Senate L, PE & R Committee.

AB 2378 (Cooper) would authorize the Board of Administration of the Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS), to adjust the death benefit amounts following each actuarial valuation to reflect changes in the All Urban California Consumer Price Index, beginning on or after January 1, 2021. The bill is at the Asm PE & R Comm.

AB 2394 (Cooper). Existing CalPERS law generally provides that retirement allowances are adjusted annually to reflect increases in the cost of living in relation to the consumer price index, defined the United States city average “Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers”. This bill would change the definition of consumer price index to instead refer to the California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for all items. The bill is at the Asm PE & R Comm.

AB 2452 (Christina Garcia) would add associations such as SACRS, CSAC, and LCC to the list of entities for which the California State Auditor (CSA) has the authority to identify, audit, and identifies as being at high risk for the potential of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement or that has major challenges associated with its economy, efficiency, or effectiveness. If the CSA determines that a local government agency is at high risk, the California State Auditor shall issue audit reports at least once every three years with recommendations for improvement in the local government so identified. The bill is at the Asm Accountability and Administrative Review (A & AR) Comm.

AB 2473 (Cooper) would add to the records exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (“Act”) specified records regarding an internally managed private loan made directly by a public investment fund, including quarterly and annual financial statements of the borrower or its constituent owners, unless the information has already been publicly released by the keeper of the information. Records related to a public investment fund’s indirect funding of a private loan via a fund or other type of externally managed investment vehicle shall remain subject to the Act. The bill is at the Asm PE & R Comm. and the Asm Jud Comm.

AB 2510 (Cooley). The CalSTRS Board currently may, upon a finding by the Board that necessary investment expertise is not available within existing civil service classifications and, with approval of the State Personnel Board (SPB), to contract with qualified investment managers. This bill would additionally authorize the Board to contract with investment advisers, upon the same finding by the Board and approval by the SPB. The bill would also authorize it to adopt a policy to establish a competitive bidding process and to specify the contract terms and conditions it solely deems necessary and prudent to contract with qualified investment managers and investment advisers. The bill is at the Asm PE & R Comm.

AB 2937 (Fong) CERL prescribes the methods for calculating a non-service-connected disability (NSCD) retirement allowance for different membership classifications and for the purpose of calculating reciprocal benefits. The allowance may vary depending on whether or not the retirement board finds, in its opinion, the member’s disability the result of intemperate use of alcoholic liquor or drugs, among other things. This bill would enable a county board of supervisors by resolution adopted by majority vote, to repeal the authority of the retirement board to consider the intemperate use of alcoholic liquor or drugs in calculating the amount of the NSCD retirement allowance. The bill is at the Asm PE & R Comm.

AB 2967 (O'Donnell). This bill would amend CERL, the County Peace Officers' Retirement Law, the County Peace Officer and Fire Service Retirement Plan Law, and the County Fire Service Retirement Law to revise the job descriptions of the various positions covered by those laws to eliminate any reference to sex, e.g., "fireman" is changed to "firefighter". This bill would also make other non-substantive changes to those laws. The bill has not yet been assigned to a committee.

AB 2998 (Kiley) would state the intent of the Legislature to subsequently amend this bill to include provisions that would authorize a school district to offer an optional contract to its employees that has a defined contribution plan in lieu of a defined benefit plan under Cal STRS, provided that the decision to select that contract is made by the employee. The bill has not yet been assigned to a committee.

AB 3249 (Fong). State and local public retirement systems are required to submit audited financial statements to the Controller at the earliest practicable opportunity within 6 months of the close of each fiscal year, and requires the Controller, within 12 months of receipt of the information, to compile and publish a report on the financial condition of all state and local public retirement systems. This bill would additionally require the Controller to post the report on the financial condition of all state and local public retirement systems on the Controller's internet website. The bill is at the Asm PE & R Comm.

SB 783 (Sen. L, PE & R Committee) is the omnibus bill from last year which will be the vehicle for making a number of potential non-controversial amendments to CERL. The amendments are the product of hard work by the SACRS Legislative Committee. The bill is still at the Asm PE & R Comm. awaiting final drafting by Leg Counsel, so it isn't in print yet.

SB 1042 (Pan) Renames the "California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust Act" as the "CalSavers Retirement Savings Trust Act", and makes conforming changes in the text of the Act. The bill would authorize the trust's board to delegate rulemaking authority to its executive director. It would also authorize an employee to opt out of participation in the program by telephone and would eliminate a condition relating to contribution amounts dependent on the length of time that an employee has contributed to the program. Additionally, this bill would require the authorities that license commercial cannabis activity in the state to provide specified information regarding licensees to the CalSavers Retirement Savings Board upon request. The bill is at the Senate L, PE & R Committee. **A hearing had been set for March 25, but it was cancelled**

SB 1159 (Hill) was originally introduced and addressed a different subject. It was gutted and amended on April 1 to deal with injuries or death caused by COVID-19. Under existing workers' compensation law, an employee is compensated for injuries sustained in the course of employment. Such law also creates a disputable presumption that certain injuries sustained in the course of employment of a specified member of law enforcement or a specified first responder arose out of and in the course of the employment. This bill would, until an unspecified date, define "injury" for described critical workers to include illness or death that results from exposure to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and would create a disputable presumption that an injury that develops or manifests itself while a critical worker is employed arose out of and in the course of the employment. It was further amended on April 22. The bill is at the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment.

SB 1297 (Moorlach) would prospectively revise the pension and other benefits provided to members of all state or local public retirement systems who is employed upon the date of its enactment and to any person who may be employed and become a member thereafter. The bill would void any limit on a pension that prohibits the pension from exceeding a percentage of final compensation, would prohibit a local entity from establishing a deferred retirement option program and, if a local entity has established a deferred retirement option program, whether or not the program is closed to new participants, it would be required to disenroll any participating employees and close the program. Additionally, the bill would require that final annual compensation used for purposes of calculating any pension or benefit by any state or local public retirement system be calculated as an average of the member's 3 highest earning years. It would also provide, for any pension based on fractional percentage of final compensation multiplied by years of service age at retirement, that such percentage shall not exceed 2.7%. Finally, it

adds to the requirement in PERL that CalPERS ensure that a contracting agency that creates a significant increase in actuarial liability as a result of increased compensation paid to an unrepresented employee bear the associated liability, by requiring that an agency participating in PERS that increases the compensation of a any member who was previously employed by a different agency to bear all actuarial liability for the action, if it results in an increased actuarial liability beyond what would have been reasonably expected for the member. In this context, the increased actuarial liability would be for the member's compensation in excess of reasonable compensation growth that is anticipated for a member who works for an employer or multiple employers over an extended time. The bill would also require, if multiple employers cause increased liability, that the liability be apportioned equitably among them. The additional actuarial liability would pertain to increased compensation paid to an employee on and after January 1, 2021. The bill is at the Senate L, PE & R) Committee.