California Legislature Reconvenes

The California Legislature reconvened today for the 2015-2016 legislative session. This is the second year of a two-year session. Some bills from last year, which have been designated as “two-year” bills, may be revisited and new bills can be introduced.

In addition to the regular legislative session, Governor Jerry Brown has convened a special legislative session to address health care spending. Special sessions (i.e., “extraordinary”) differ from regular legislative sessions because there is no specific schedule for special sessions and they can be called by the Governor intermittently to deal with specific issues or topics. During this special session, fifteen tobacco-related bills (seven of which were jointly introduced in both the Senate and Assembly) have been introduced. Special session is still open and these bills could be voted upon at any time.

Below is a brief outline of the key legislative dates and deadlines for 2016:

January 4 – Legislature reconvenes
January 10 – Deadline for Governor to submit 2016-2017 budget
January 31 – Deadline for “two-year” bills to pass house of origin (i.e., the house they were introduced in)
February 19 – Deadline for introducing new bills
Mid-May – Governor submits May Revise to 2016-2017 budget
June 3 – Deadline for bills to pass house of origin
June 15 – Deadline to pass 2016-2017 budget
June 30 – Deadline for Governor to sign 2016-2017 budget
August 31 – Deadline for legislature to pass bills
September 30 – Deadline for Governor to sign or veto bills
November 8 – General Election
The following bills from last year may be revisited this session. They are subject to the deadline for “two-year” bills on January 31.

- AB 48 (Stone – D, Santa Cruz) – Cigarettes: Single-use Filters
- AB 261 (Allen – R, Huntington Beach) – Cigarettes and Tobacco Products: Retailers: Licenses
- AB 1278 (Gray – D, Merced) – Cigarettes and Tobacco Products: Identification Requirements
- AB 1396 (Bonta – D, Alameda) – Medi-Cal
- SB 24 (Hill – D, San Mateo) – STAKE Act: Electronic Cigarettes
- SB 140 (Leno – D, San Francisco) – Electronic Cigarettes
- SB 151 (Hernandez – D, West Covina) – Tobacco Products: Minimum Legal Age

In addition, here are the list of tobacco-related bills that are pending from special session:

- SB 5 X2 (Leno – D, San Francisco) & AB 6 X2 (Cooper – D, Elk Grove) – Electronic Cigarettes
- SB 6 X2 (Monning – D, Carmel) & AB 7 X2 (Stone – D, Scotts Valley) – Smoking in the Workplace
- SB 7 X2 (Hernandez – D, Azusa) & AB 8 X2 (Wood – D, Healdsburg) – Tobacco Products: Minimum Legal Age
- SB 8 X2 (Liu – D, La Canada Flintridge) & AB 9 X2 (Thurmond – D, Richmond; Nazarian – D, Sherman Oaks) – Tobacco Use Programs
- SB 9 X2 (McGuire – D, Healdsburg) & AB 10 X2 (Bloom – D, Santa Monica) – Local Taxes: Authorization: Cigarettes and Tobacco Products
- SB 10 X2 (Beall – D, San Jose) & AB 11 X2 (Nazarain – D, Sherman Oaks) – Cigarette and Tobacco Product Licensing: Fees and Funding

The Center’s Bill Tracker (www.center4tobaccopolicy.org/bill-tracker/) can be used to track all bills throughout the 2015-2016 legislative session. The Bill Tracker contains up-to-date information with full summaries, status updates and other information about pertinent bills introduced in 2016.

The American Lung Association in California Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing will be following bills and providing updates as the session progresses. You can find those updates here.

Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing: January 4, 2016

If you have questions about this analysis, please contact Samantha Pellon (Samantha.Pellon@lung.org) or Lindsey Freitas (lindsey.freitas@lung.org). Sources: Copies of the legislation outlined above and vote information may be obtained at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/