California Legislature Reconvenes

The California Legislature reconvened today for the 2019-2020 legislative session. This is the first year of a two-year session. The Capitol is already buzzing with new faces and bills have already started getting introduced.

Below is a brief outline of the key legislative dates and deadlines for 2019:

- January 9 – Legislature reconvenes
- January 10 – Deadline for Governor to submit budget
- February 22 – Deadline to introduce bills
- Mid-May – Governor submits May Revise to 2018-2019 budget
- May 31 – Deadline for bills to pass house of origin
- June 15 – Deadline to pass 2018-2019 budget
- September 13 – Last day for legislature to pass bills
- October 13 – Deadline for Governor to sign or veto bills

Four tobacco-related bills were submitted during the early introduction period in December.

- **AB 131** (Cunningham – R, Templeton) Electronic smoking devices: manufacturers: advertising
- **SB 8** (Glazer – D, Orinda) State parks: state coastal beaches: smoking ban
- **SB 38** (Hill – D, San Mateo) Flavored tobacco products
- **SB 39** (Hill – D, San Mateo) Tobacco products

Each bill will need to go through a policy and a fiscal committee in its house of origin (i.e., the house they were introduced in) before receiving a “floor vote” by the entire house. It will then repeat the process in the second house before receiving final approval by the Governor. If at any point the bill fails to receive enough “Aye” votes before the specified deadlines, it will no longer move forward.
Four tobacco-related bills have already been introduced:

**AB 131** (Cunningham – R, Templeton) Electronic smoking devices: manufacturers: advertising
Assembly Bill 131 would prohibit electronic smoking device manufacturers from advertising or promoting the products in ways that appeal to minors. This includes the prohibition of cartoons or characters popular among children, imitation of candy packaging, or using the words “candy” or “candies.” The law would apply to any electronic smoking device that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids, including e-cigarettes, vape pens, cigars, pipes, and hookah. Anyone caught in violation of the law would be subject to fines starting at $1,000.
**Status:** December 5: Introduced – awaits policy committee assignment.

**SB 8** (Glazer – D, Orinda) State parks: state coastal beaches: smoking ban
Senate Bill 8 would make it a crime to smoke or dispose of cigar and cigarette waste on a state coastal beach or within the state park system. Anyone who violates this law could receive a fine up to $25.
**Status:** December 3: Introduced – awaits policy committee assignment.

**SB 38** (Hill – D, San Mateo) Flavored tobacco products
Senate Bill 38 would prohibit the sale or offering of any flavored tobacco product, including menthol cigarettes. The bill defines “characterizing flavor” to mean any distinguishable taste or aroma outside of the traditional taste or aroma of tobacco.
**Status:** December 3: Introduced - awaits policy committee assignment.

**SB 39** (Hill – D, San Mateo) Tobacco products
Senate Bill 39 would create more strict requirements for online tobacco sales. Current law requires the seller or distributor to verify the recipient's age. This bill would require a person 21 years of age or older to sign for the package upon delivery. It would also require the packaging to be labeled "contains tobacco products: signature of person 21 years of age or older required for delivery." Anyone caught in violation of the law would be subject to fines starting at $1,000.
**Status:** December 3: Introduced - awaits policy committee assignment.

The Center’s Bill Tracker ([www.center4tobaccopolicy.org/bill-tracker/](http://www.center4tobaccopolicy.org/bill-tracker/)) can be used to track all bills throughout the 2019-2020 legislative session. The Bill Tracker contains up-to-date information with full summaries, status updates and other information about pertinent bills introduced this session.

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](http://assembly.ca.gov/legislativedeadlines).

If you have questions about this update, please contact Alyssa Stratton (Alyssa.stratton@lung.org) at (916) 585-7664.