



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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CCAO preparing for Senate budget advocacy

As the Senate begins its work on [House Bill 96](#), the state operating budget, in earnest starting the week of April 28, CCAO has begun compiling amendments that the Association will support. Senators must submit their list of supported amendments by May 16, so please take the time to stress the importance of the amendments below to your Senator(s) over the coming weeks.

This list is not final and will be continually updated on our [Bill Tracker page](#).

Priority Amendment Requests

These amendments concern one of CCAO's five priority areas this budget: child welfare, indigent defense, Next Generation 9-1-1, county jail funding, and child care.

Indigent Defense

Drafting: Will appropriate an additional \$21.25 million in SFY 2026 and \$28.25 million SFY 2027 for reimbursement for county indigent defense costs. This will bring the funding for reimbursement in line with the Public Defender's budget request.

Next Generation 9-1-1

[SC-0207](#) (Senator Brian Chavez): Increases the user fee that generates revenue for Next Generation 9-1-1 to \$1.25 per month.

Publicly Funded Child Care

Drafting: Will restore the provision from the Executive Budget increasing initial eligibility for publicly funded child care to 160% of the federal poverty level.

Other Amendment Requests

These amendments concern other areas of county operations.

Family and Children First Councils

[SC-0315](#): Removes language added in the House that would allow counties to eliminate their Family and Children First Council if certain conditions are met.

SNAP Administration

[SC-0220](#): Removes language added in the House that would have increased the administrative burden for county department of jobs and family services regarding SNAP administration by prohibiting counties from using simplified or quarterly reporting procedures.

Lodging Tax Revenue

Drafting: Will allow counties that meet certain criteria to use up to 67% of their general lodging tax revenue for different select purposes.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

The following bill(s) that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [House Bill 232](#) (Representatives Adam Mathews and David Thomas): To modify the law governing certain property tax complaints.
- [House Bill 233](#) (Representatives Jeff LaRe and DJ Swearingen): To require verification of an elector's citizenship before the elector may vote and to modify procedures regarding voter registration, voter roll maintenance, absent voting, and election petitions.
- [House Bill 240](#) (Representatives Meredith Lawson-Rowe and Cecil Thomas): To make changes to the laws governing dogs and other companion animals and to name this act Avery's Law.
- [House Bill 241](#) (Representatives Cecil Thomas and Meredith Lawson-Rowe): To require a 10-day quarantine period for a dog following an attack and to require a court, under certain circumstances, to hold a hearing to determine the dog's disposition.
- [Senate Bill 177](#) (Senators Louis Blessing, III, and Jane Timken): To create the Workforce Investment Now (WIN) for Child Care pilot program to provide publicly funded child care to child care staff members and to make an appropriation.