

**CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES
(05-01-2021)**

I. Name:

- a) This body shall consist of the Standing Committee of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee, known as the “Legislation Committee.”

II. Preamble:

- a) It shall be the function of the Legislation Committee to propose legislation when needed, in response to the duties and policies of the Party; to maintain a listing of all pending legislation that is of "must" and/or major concern to the Party; and to keep a record of the vote by the Democratic Party legislators on such legislative items. The Legislation Committee shall in consultation with the Chair of the State Central Committee, organize and coordinate activities to advance Party positions on legislative priorities, including, but not limited to, lobby days with legislators, grassroots mobilization, delegate outreach, and as needed, shall advise the Chair of the State Central Committee and make recommendations as to how to most effectively utilize Party resources for this purpose, consistent with guidelines adopted by the Rules committee.

III. Scope:

- a) The Legislation Committee shall consider bills originating from the California State Legislature or the United States Congress. In exceptional cases, the Legislation Committee may consider local legislation of a statewide concern. Bills under consideration should be in furtherance of an existing party resolution or platform plank.
- b) The Legislation Committee shall only consider legislation duly submitted by any registered Democrat (or a person of voting registration age who is ineligible to register as Democrats, but has expressed an intent to register as a member of the California Democratic Party upon becoming eligible to do so), through an online “Legislative Position Request Form” on the party’s website, unless a request originates from the Chair of the State Central Committee, another standing committee, or a caucus of the California Democratic Party.
- c) Consideration of bills may result in a Legislative Committee recommendation including but not limited to: support, support if amended, oppose, oppose unless amended and neutral. A bill may also be laid on the table without taking any position.

- i. In order to consider a position to oppose legislation sponsored by a Democrat, a 2/3rds vote threshold of the Legislation Committee must be met, and at least fifteen (15) days notice must have been given to the proposed legislation's author or their chief of staff.
- d) Legislation Committee shall be guided by, but not limited to, the following when making recommendations on legislation:
- i. Timeliness of the legislation.
 - ii. Positions taken by the DNC, DNC Committees, DSCC, CDP resolutions and/or platform committees, and/or positions taken by CDP Caucuses that may conflict with or adhere to issues related to the legislative request.
 - iii. Status of legislation in the CA State Legislature, U.S. Congress or other appropriate legislative body.
 - iv. Impact DSCC may have on outcome of legislation.
 - v. Historical principles of the DNC and DSCC and communities it represents.
 - vi. Factors that may affect potential substantive changes to legislation, such as whether legislation requires 2/3 majority to pass legislative body.
 - vii. Constitutionality.
 - viii. Importance of the legislation.
 - ix. Number of bills on which a recommendation has been made.
 - x. Impact on Party resources.
 - xi. Degree of consensus in the Party.
- e) The Legislation Committee may also facilitate the sponsorship of legislation, taking into consideration the resources required to sponsor legislation, other potential stakeholders, capacity of committee members and party staff, and legal requirements of advocating for the passage of legislation.

IV. Sub-Committees::

- a) There shall be a State Legislation subcommittee and a Federal Legislation subcommittee within the Legislation Committee.
- b) Members of the Legislation Committee may self-select to serve on a sub-committee.
- c) The Lead Chair(s) shall appoint the chair of each of the subcommittees.
- d) For a meeting of a subcommittee which has been duly noticed, quorum shall be 40% or 10 subcommittee members, whichever is less.
- e) Subcommittees shall meet and vote via either telephonic or electronic communication as designated by the subcommittee chair, subject to the guidelines of the CDP regarding email, telephonic, and electronic communication. In-person meetings may only take place at scheduled DSCC meetings.

- f) Subcommittees shall be tasked with verifying information on completed Legislative Request forms, including, but not limited to former positions taken by the DNC, DNC committees, the State Central Committee, Executive Board, positions taken by the resolutions and platform committees of the California Democratic Party on issues related to the legislative request, and status of legislation.
- g) Subcommittees shall be tasked with following Legislation Committee endorsed legislation and reporting to the Legislation Committee Lead Chair(s) any substantive changes made to the legislation.
- h) Subcommittee chairs shall update the Lead Chair(s) on any change to legislation on which the Legislation Committee has taken a position, including any amendments, addendums or riders that would change the intent of the legislation, add to its scope, or diminish its impact.
- i) The Lead Chair(s) shall be responsible for informing the Chair of the CDP on any change to legislation on which the Legislation Committee has taken a position, including any amendments, addendums or riders that would change the intent of the legislation, add to its scope, or diminish its impact.

V. Procedures:

- a) Requests:
 - i. Legislative position requests may be submitted by any registered Democrat (or a person of voting registration age who is ineligible to register as Democrats, but has expressed an intent to register as a member of the California Democratic Party upon becoming eligible to do so) through the Legislative Position Request Form provided by the Legislation Committee on the party website. Legislative position requests shall be taken up at the first Legislation Committee meeting following the request.
 - ii. In order to be considered timely, Legislative Position Requests must be received no later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to a meeting of the State Central Committee or Executive Board, unless the requested legislation was introduced, substantially amended, or given urgency status within the 30 calendar day period, in which case the committee may waive this requirement upon a simple majority vote of members present and voting.
 - 1. Substantial amendment is defined as language that changes one or more core functions of the legislation.

- iii. Late legislative requests will be heard by the Committee unless five (5) members of the Committee present and voting dissent, or unless approved as a new, substantially amended, or urgency bill by the Committee. Once a late legislative request has received consent to be heard, it will be treated in the same way as if it had been submitted as a timely legislative request. The submitter may also be asked to provide 40 copies of the legislation request form and related materials depending on the time frame.

b) Sub-Committees:

- i. The Lead Chair(s) of the Legislation Committee shall direct requests on legislation pending in the California State Legislature to the State Legislation Subcommittee and requests on legislation pending before the U.S. Congress to the Federal Legislation subcommittee.
- ii. Subcommittee chairs shall designate one or more subcommittee members to review the entire text of the legislation prior to a subcommittee vote.
- iii. Legislation may receive a recommendation as defined in Section III, Subsection C, of these Legislation Policies And Procedures by a majority vote. The outcome of each subcommittee shall be presented to the Legislation Committee of the whole as items on consent.
- iv. Subcommittee chairs shall supply copies of the completed "Legislative Position Request Form" for timely submissions discharged out of the subcommittee and the consent calendar to California Democratic Party Staff at least 10 days prior to the first day of a State Central Committee or Executive Board meeting.
- v. Subcommittee Legislative Position Request Forms for timely legislative position requests and consent calendars shall be distributed to Legislation Committee members no later than 72 hours before the first day of State Central Committee or Executive Board, whichever comes first.
- vi. Subcommittee chairs shall have access to at least one full copy (digital or hard copy) of the entire text of the legislation at the Legislation Committee meeting at which the legislative request will be presented to the Legislation Committee.

c) Committee of the Whole:

- i. Recommendations may be severed from the consent calendar upon objection of any member of the Legislation Committee.
- ii. The order of legislative recommendation consideration shall be as follows:

1. The consent calendar, excluding any severed items
 2. Positions severed from a consent calendar recommendation with the first vote being on the subcommittee's recommendation. No other motion, of any type, shall be in order until the recommendation of the subcommittee is disposed of by either being adopted or rejected.
 3. Floor Motions
 - iii. Except when presented as a consent calendar, the members of the Legislation Committee shall be given the opportunity to debate the recommendation. Speakers shall be limited to no more than three (3) speakers in favor and three (3) three speakers opposed, with a time limit of no more than 1 minute per speaker. The number of speakers or time allotted may be extended by a majority vote of those present and voting.
 - iv. A 60% vote of the Legislation Committee members present and voting is needed to make a legislative recommendation to the DSCC or DSCC E-Board.
 - v. The Legislation Committee will present legislative position recommendations in the committee report to the next meeting of either State Central Committee convention body or Executive Board, whichever comes first.
- d) Sponsoring Legislation:
- i. Legislation sponsorship requests shall be brought to the Legislation Committee by any delegate or caucus of the State Central Committee.
 - ii. These requests shall be referred to an ad hoc drafting subcommittee by majority vote of the Legislation Committee, with an effort to fill the drafting subcommittee with members of the Legislation Committee that have relevant experience in the subject matter of the proposed legislation.
 - iii. The drafting subcommittee shall report at the next meeting, a report detailing draft language, potential authors, co-sponsors, supporters, opponents, feasibility, and findings to either recommend the Legislation Committee approve or deny the sponsorship request.
 - iv. The Legislation Committee may recommend to the State Central Committee or Executive Board committee sponsored legislation with a 60% vote of the Legislation Committee members present and voting.

- v. Any legislation sponsorship proposal may be made available to all State Central Committee members on the Legislation Committee's website and be included in any Committee Report to the convention or executive board floor.
- e) Post Meeting Powers:
- i. Reconsideration on legislative positions adopted by the Legislation Committee require a 2/3 vote of the Legislation Committee members present and voting. A vote for reconsideration must occur within one year of the committee taking its first position on the legislation up for reconsideration or at any time if amended.
 - ii. In the event that legislation that the California Democratic Party has taken a position on is substantially amended in such a way as to fundamentally change its nature so as to warrant a change in position, the Lead Chair(s) of the Legislation Committee may call upon a panel consisting of the Lead Chair(s) of the Legislation Committee and all Co-Chair's of the Legislation Committee to review the changes made to said legislation. A simple majority of panel members present and voting shall be sufficient to rescind a prior legislative position taken by the body. In the event that a legislative position is rescinded, it shall be taken up by the Legislation Committee at the next regular meeting as if it was a new piece of legislation.

VI. General Provisions:

- a) The Legislation Committee shall be guided by Roberts Rules of Order except where specified in this document.
- b) Due notice of Legislation Committee meetings must be made to all Legislation Committee members.
- c) Members of the Legislation Committee must disclose any conflict of interest to the best of their ability.
- d) The Legislation Committee will create a flow chart representing the process by which the Legislation Committee and the CDP follows in order to take positions on legislation.
- e) The Legislation Committee shall ensure publication of committee reports and these bylaws on the party website.