



SACRAMENTO UPDATE

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SU05 -10

Jobs Bills

With unemployment running over 12 percent in California, jobs has become the primary issue in the Capitol. But while legislators and administration says they want to help the state's 2.3 million unemployed, there is little agreement about what approaches to take among democrats and republicans. This week saw several bills pushed by the Schwarzenegger administration and Republican lawmakers either dead or stalled in Democrat-controlled committees. There are many bills introduced this year to roll back environmental and work-place rules for the purpose of boosting job creation.

Defeated or held in committee were:

SB X8 70 (Dutton) - Grants employers greater flexibility to provide meal periods, expands the number of qualifying circumstances for creating on-duty meal period agreements, and also reduce the punishment for failing to provide a meal period.

SB X8 66 (Cox) – Provides for alternative to the existing workplace election procedure for electing a particular workweek schedule be established that would: (a) allow an employee to request to work up to 10 hours per day within a 40-hour workweek, and (b) relieve the employer of the obligation to pay overtime compensation under such a schedule.

SB X8 42 (Correa) – This proposal would grant the Business, Housing and Transportation Agency the right to select a specified number of projects that have completed [EIRs] and deem those projects as approved and not subject to legal challenge - expediting the ground breaking of these projects and creating jobs.

SB X8 57 (Cox) - Extends deadlines for meeting heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicle regulations by two years. Many companies and individual owner/operators are faced with \$15,000 to \$30,000 replacement or retrofit of the exhaust system on their existing diesel trucks. The first deadline is January 1, 2011. Many of these early deadlines on the oldest trucks force owners to buy new vehicles. These regulations make their current vehicles worthless. The ARB voted only to re-examine the science behind the regulations, no current regulation has been suspended for on-road vehicles.

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