



GAINES & ASSOCIATES

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

“GAINES REPORT”

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

2026 SESSION

SUMMER RECESS UPDATE

JULY 12, 2026

Upon adjournment on Friday, July 3, 2026, the California State Legislature began their one-month Summer Recess. Legislators will return to the Capitol on Monday, August 3, 2026, for the final four weeks of the second year of the two-year 2025/2026 State Legislative Session.

With six months of the second year of the 2025/2026 State Legislative Session now behind us and several deadlines having passed, some bills have died, but many are continuing their legislative journey.

This *Gaines & Associates – Gaines Report “California State Legislature – 2026 Session – Summer Recess Update”* will provide you with the latest status of all bills of concern currently under consideration at our State Capitol.

Bills are placed in numerical order, not in order of priority or interest.

The most recent activity and current status of each bill are shown in italics.

This *Gaines & Associates – Gaines Report “California State Legislature – 2026 Session – Summer Recess Update”* is client privileged and provided as a service to *Gaines & Associates* clients.

For more information on any of the below bills, please contact Gaines & Associates at info@gainesandassociates.net

2025 State Legislative Session – “Two-Year” Bill

- [AB 929 \(Connolly\)](#) - Sustainable Groundwater Management: Managed Wetlands

Established in current law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a

groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or coordinated GSPs as of January 31, 2020. Further, SGMA requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a GSP or coordinated GSPs as of January 31, 2022. However, current law does not recognize the environmental benefits nor make any exception for artificially irrigated wetland habitats in basins subject to SGMA that depend upon groundwater for seasonal management.

As a result of the significant changes to our natural hydrology, only 5% of historical wetland habitats remain in California. Today, nearly all our remaining interior wetlands must be artificially irrigated and intensely managed, year-round, to recreate seasonal wetland values. These managed wetland habitats not only provide critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species, but they also improve water quality, provide groundwater recharge, and offer flood protection and recreational benefits. The availability of a wetland water supply when, where, and in the quantity necessary is integral to the ability of public and private land managers to recreate these important habitat benefits. As such, SGMA generated restrictions placed on the use of groundwater for wetland irrigations in some areas – such as the Tulare Basin in the southern San Joaquin Valley – could have devastating impacts on the ability of landowners to manage their lands to provide maximum wetland habitat values.

Because of the substantial loss of our historical wetland base, in 1993, the State adopted a “no net loss” wetlands policy pursuant to Executive Order No. W-59-93. The goal of the EO being to balance wetland loss due to economic development with wetland protection and restoration so that the total acreage of wetlands in the state does not decrease but rather remains constant or increases. The state doubled-down on EO No. W-59-93 when it passed [AB 2875 \(Freidman\)](#) into state law in 2024.

SGMA currently requires a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) to consider the interests of environmental users of groundwater and GSPs to describe impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems and beneficial users of groundwater – including managed wetlands. Despite these provisions, SGMA does not protect against wetland losses or ensure availability of historic wetland groundwater supplies. Further, management actions in GSPs thus far have shown a significant net loss of managed wetlands in the relatively short period since SGMA implementation. GSAs have begun to impose one-size-fits-all caps on groundwater pumping, regardless of whether land uses provide public beneficial uses, and hefty fees, including up to \$500 per acre-foot for additional pumping. With just 5% of historic wetlands remaining, the additional wetland losses likely to occur under SGMA could substantially jeopardize the health of Pacific Flyway waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species.

As amended June 26, 2025, AB 929 by [Assembly Member Damon Connelly](#) (D-San Rafael) would, among other things, prohibit a GSA from using their authority to limit groundwater extraction by those who must rely upon groundwater for managing wetland habitats. AB 929 would also prohibit a GSA from imposing a fee upon “managed wetland extractors”, provided the water use for each user does not increase above what was historically required to support the managed wetland. As recently amended, if a managed wetland extractor increases its extraction of groundwater above what was historically required to annually flood the managed wetland, AB 929 would authorize a groundwater sustainability agency to impose a fee for the usage above the historical amount. The provisions of AB 929 would sunset on January 1, 2029.

AB 929 defines a “managed wetland” as an existing publicly or privately owned wetland that receives seasonal, semi-permanent, or permanent flooding to simulate natural processes that promote food production and habitat for the benefit of wetland-dependent species, and which is designated as, or administered as a:

- (1) State wildlife area;
- (2) National wildlife refuge;
- (3) Central Valley Project Improvement Act wetland habitat area;
- (4) Conservation easement held by a federal or state resource agency, a local agency whose primary function is managing land or water for wetland habitat purposes, or a non-governmental conservation organization; or
- (5) Wildlife habitat contract or other conservation agreement of no less than ten years in duration administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or Natural Resources Conservation Service.

AB 929 defines a “managed wetland extractor” as a person who extracts groundwater solely for managed wetland purposes.

AB 929 passed through the Assembly and over to the Senate in May 2025.

Once in the Senate, AB 929 passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in June 2025 by a narrow vote and was ordered straight to the Senate Floor pursuant to [Senate Rule 28.8](#).

Once on the Senate Floor, AB 929 was ordered to the inactive file.

A "two-year" bill, AB 929 has until late August 2026 to be brought up for a vote and passed off the Senate Floor.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of AB 929, click [AB 929 Assy Approps Support](#)

AB 929 is a re-do of AB 828 – legislation introduced by Assembly Member Connolly during the 2023/2024 Legislative Session that made it all the way to the Governor’s desk but was vetoed.

To view all the information currently available on AB 929, click [AB 929 Detail](#)

2026 State Legislative Session

- **[AB 1673 \(Hadwick\)](#) - County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund: Expenditure**

As amended June 11, 2026, AB 1673 by [Assembly Member Heather Hadwick](#) (R-Redding) would have expanded the uses of county fish and wildlife propagation funds to include costs relating to wildlife coexistence programs to prevent human-wildlife conflict. As recently amended, AB 1673 would also have allowed a person authorized by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to apply aversive conditioning on wolves, to purchase, possess, or use any tear gas weapon that expels a projectile upon authorization from the sheriff of a county or the chief or other head of a municipal police department of any city or city and county.

Prior to being amended, AB 1673 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on March 24, passing out on a unanimous vote. AB 1673 was then heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee on April 8, passing out to the Assembly Floor on another unanimous vote. On April 23, AB 1673 passed off the Assembly Floor and over to the Senate via yet another unanimous vote.

Once in the Senate, AB 1673 was referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and amended but was withdrawn from committee the following day. On June 15, AB 1673 was double-referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and Senate Public Safety Committee and set to be heard. On June 18, AB 1673 was pulled from being heard by the author.

Having missed the legislative deadline for passing out of policy committee, AB 1673 is dead.

To view all the information available on AB 1673, click [AB 1673 Detail](#)

- **[AB 1722 \(Hadwick\)](#) - California Endangered Species Act: Take Prohibition: Self-Defense**
As amended June 25, 2026, AB 1722 by [Assembly Member Heather Hadwick](#) (R/01-Redding) would protect a person from civil, administrative, or criminal penalties for taking, or attempting to take, a protected species if they acted in good faith and used necessary and reasonable force to protect themselves or another person from immediate bodily harm. It would also require that person to notify DFW within 24 hours of the incident.

As newly amended, AB 1722 would also require DFW, on or before July 1, 2032, to prepare and submit a detailed report to the relevant legislative committees in both houses of the Legislature that includes the species, date, and approximate location, regarding a take of an animal reported pursuant to AB 1722 between January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2031.

Double-referred, AB 1722 passed out of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 14, then out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee on April 21 – clearing both committees without a single “no” vote. AB 1722 was then heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 6, passing out and to the Assembly Floor via another unanimous vote.

AB 1722 was brought up for a vote on the Assembly Floor on May 28, passing out and to the Senate on a 64-0 vote, with 16 Members not voting.

Once on the Senate side, AB 1722 was double-referred – passing out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 23, and then out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 30, both via unanimous votes.

AB 1722 must next be considered in the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it is scheduled to be heard on August 3.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of AB 1722, click [AB 1722 Assy Approps Support](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in support of AB 1722, click [AB 1722 Sen NWR Support](#)

To view all the information available on AB 1722, click [AB 1722 Detail](#)

- **[AB 1912 \(Hadwick\)](#) - Deer: Archery Season: Concealed Firearms**
As amended March 25, 2026, AB 1912 by [Assembly Member Heather Hadwick](#) (R-Redding) would repeal current law which prohibits a person hunting deer during archery season from carrying, or having

under their immediate control, a firearm of any kind, except for an active or honorably retired peace officer.

Current regulations allow CCW permit holders pursuing other big game species during archery season to carry a concealable firearm, but state law does not extend that same allowance to those hunting deer during archery season. This bill would correct that disparity by allowing those hunting deer during archery season to carry a concealable firearm for personal safety in the event they encounter an illegal marijuana cultivation site, an aggressive mountain lion, or other large predatory species.

AB 1912 is co-sponsored by the *California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association* and the *California Deer Association* with the assistance of *Gaines & Associates*.

Double-referred, AB 1912 passed out of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on March 24 via a unanimous vote, and then out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee on consent on April 7. Having no fiscal impact to the state, AB 1912 bypassed the Assembly Appropriations Committee and went straight to the Assembly Floor. AB 1912 passed off the Assembly Floor on consent and over to the Senate on April 16.

On the Senate side, AB 1912 was again double-referred – passing out of both the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 9 and then out of Senate Public Safety Committee on June 30 on consent.

Having no cost to the state, AB 1912 will bypass the Senate Appropriations Committee and will go straight to the Senate Floor, where it can be brought up for a vote at any time in August.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee in support of AB 1912, click [AB 1912 Assy WPW Support](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Public Safety Committee in support of AB 1912, click [AB 1912 Assy PS Support](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in support of AB 1912, click [AB 1912 Sen NRW Support](#)

To view all the information available on AB 1912, click [AB 1912 Detail](#)

- **[AB 1943 \(Gipson\)](#) - Pupil Safety: Notifications: Firearms**

As amended March 23, 2026, AB 1943 by [Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson](#) (D-Gardena) would require school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to annually provide parents and guardians with a “Secure Firearm Storage Notification” that contains, among other things, a description of the risks of children accessing unsecured firearms in the home, California’s child access prevention laws, and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms. Further, AB 1943 would require the Department of Education to post model language for notice on its website and provide formatting and content options for local educational agencies to post the notice on their respective websites along with other relevant information and resources about secure firearm storage.

Among other things, if passed, AB 1943 would add costly, duplicative, and administratively burdensome school-based notification and posting requirements related to firearm storage already governed by existing law.

AB 1943 was heard in the Assembly Education Committee on March 18, passing out on a unanimous vote. AB 1943 was then heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 6, passing out and to the Assembly Floor on a unanimous vote. AB 1943 was brought up for a vote on the Assembly Floor on May 11, passing out on yet another unanimous vote.

Once on the Senate, AB 1943 was heard in the Senate Education Committee on June 3, passing out via unanimous vote to the Senate Appropriations Committee where the bill was promptly placed on the suspense file.

AB 1943 has until August 14 to be heard and passed out of Senate Appropriations Committee to the Senate Floor.

To view all the information available on AB 1943, click [AB 1943 Detail](#)

- [AB 1948 \(Ramos and Valencia\)](#) - **Firearms: Concealed Carry Licenses - SIGNED**

As chaptered June 30, 2026, AB 1948 by Assembly Members [James C. Ramos](#) (D-San Bernardino) and [Avelino Valencia](#) (D-Anaheim) will, commencing January 1, 2027, extend the validity period of a CCW license from two years to three years, while maintaining existing eligibility and training requirements.

AB 1948 will reduce administrative burdens on both CCW permit holders and licensing authorities by decreasing the frequency of renewals, lower costs and time commitments for law-abiding applicants, and provide greater continuity and stability for individuals who maintain a CCW license for personal protection.

AB 1948 was heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on March 17, amended, and passed out on a unanimous vote. Having no fiscal impact to the state, AB 1948 bypassed the Assembly Appropriations Committee and went straight to the Assembly Floor. AB 1948 passed off the Assembly Floor and over to the Senate via another unanimous vote on March 26.

Once in the Senate, AB 1948 was heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 9, passing out and to the Senate Floor on consent. On June 15, AB 1948 passed off the Senate Floor on consent and was sent to the Governor's desk.

The Governor signed AB 1948 into law on June 30.

To view all the information available on AB 1948, click [AB 1948 Detail](#)

- [AB 1987 \(Aguiar-Curry and Hadwick\)](#) - **Department-Managed Lands: Wildlife Areas: Hunting**
Current law requires DFW to manage department-owned lands on a nonprofit basis and authorizes them to enter into agreements for the management and operation of those lands with a nonprofit conservation group.

As amended June 11, 2026, AB 1987 by [Assembly Member Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry](#) (D-Napa) and [Assembly Member Heather Hadwick](#) (R-Redding) would authorize DFW to enter into agreements with

nonprofit conservation groups to help administer hunting and other public-use programs on department-managed lands.

Existing law also allows the lease of department-owned land for agricultural purposes under certain conditions and authorizes DFW to use the funds from those leases for the management, maintenance, restoration, and operations of those lands. AB 1987 would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, agricultural lease funds to be used by DFW to support the management, maintenance, restoration, and operations of department-managed lands.

Existing law also requires DFW to provide licensed hunters an annual opportunity to comment on public hunting programs, including anticipated habitat conditions in hunting areas on Type A and Type B wildlife areas. AB 1987 would add wetland flood-up to the topics that the DFW is required to provide licensed hunters with an opportunity for comment on.

AB 1987 would create the Waterfowl Management Areas Operations and Maintenance Account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund and would require all revenues generated from the sale of waterfowl hunting reservation applications and daily and season long entry passes from Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas to be deposited into the account. The bill would require DFW, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to expend those revenues for the operation and maintenance of, and the reasonable administrative costs directly related to, the public hunting programs for Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas.

AB 1987 would require DFW to, on or before October 1, 2033, prepare and submit a report to the appropriate policy and budget committees of the Legislature.

AB 1987 is sponsored by the *California Waterfowl Association*.

AB 1987 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on March 24, amended, and passed out to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote. AB 1987 then passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and to the Assembly Floor via a unanimous vote on April 8. AB 1987 passed off the Assembly Floor and over to the Senate via another unanimous vote on April 13.

Once in the Senate, AB 1987 was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 9, passing out via unanimous vote to the Senate Appropriations Committee where the bill was promptly placed on the suspense file.

AB 1987 has until August 14 to be heard and passed out of Senate Appropriations Committee to the Senate Floor.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee in support of AB 1987, click [AB 1987 Assy WPW Support](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of AB 1987, click [AB 1987 Assy Approps Support](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in support of AB 1987, click [AB 1987 Sen NWR Support](#)

To view all the information available on AB 1987, click [AB 1987 Detail](#)

- [AB 2207 \(Hadwick\)](#) - **Hunting tags: Transfer: Youth & Disabled Veteran Participation Programs**
The California Constitution establishes the Fish and Game Commission and delegates to the Commission powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game. Under existing law, a hunting license grants the privilege to take birds and mammals. Existing law also provides for DFW to issue tags that are required in addition to a hunting license to take specified animals, including antelope, elk, deer, bears, and bighorn rams. Current law prohibits the transfer of a tag issued by DFW.

As amended June 25, 2026, AB 2207 by [Assembly Member Heather Hadwick](#) (R-Redding) would require the Commission to establish a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes a person to transfer a tag issued for the take of one of those species to their child or grandchild, under certain conditions. In addition, AB 2207 would require the Commission to establish a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes an organization to facilitate the transfer of a tag issued for the take of one of those species by submitting a request to DFW to transfer the tag from a donor tag holder to a youth with a life-threatening illness or permanent physical disability or to a disabled veteran.

AB 2207 would require DFW to collect fees to cover specified costs of those programs and would require them to deposit revenues from those fees into the Big Game Management Account.

AB 2207 would require DFW to, on or before January 1, 2032, prepare and submit a report to the relevant legislative policy and budget committees in both houses of the Legislature regarding the program.

AB 2207 would sunset on January 1, 2033.

AB 2207 would not expand existing tag quotas, nor would it remove tags from the general draw pool. Instead, it would apply only to tags that have already been issued through the regular draw, but which are voluntarily transferred by the original recipient.

For youth facing life-threatening illnesses or permanent physical disabilities, as well as for disabled veterans, these rare hunting opportunities can provide meaningful therapeutic, recreational, and family benefits. AB 2207 would also help connect participants to California's long-standing conservation tradition and the user-funded model that supports wildlife management in the state.

AB 2207 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 14, amended, and passed out to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote. AB 2207 passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and to the Assembly Floor via another unanimous vote on May 6. AB 2207 passed off the Assembly Floor on consent on and over to the Senate on May 14.

Once in the Senate, AB 2207 was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on June 23, passing out and to the Senate Appropriations Committee via a unanimous vote. AB 2207 is scheduled to be heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on August 3.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of AB 2207, click [AB 2207 Assy Approps Support](#)

To view all the information available on AB 2207, click [AB 2207 Detail](#)

- **[SB 872 \(McNerney\)](#) - Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund**

Existing law declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a critically important natural resource for California and the nation and it serves as both the hub of the California water system and the most valuable estuary and wetland ecosystem on the west coast of North and South America. Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and DFW to determine the principal options for the Delta and requires DWR to evaluate and comparatively rate each option for its ability to do specified things, including, among others, to maintain Delta water quality for Delta users, and to preserve, protect, and improve Delta levees.

Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and requires the Conservancy to act as primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta and to support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. Existing law provides for the preservation of specified management areas of the Suisun Marsh, pursuant to a protection plan prepared and adopted by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Existing law establishes the Delta Stewardship Council, and requires the Council to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive long-term management plan for the Delta, known as the Delta Plan.

Existing law requires DWR, upon appropriation, to reimburse an eligible local agency for costs incurred for the maintenance or improvement of specified levees, in an amount not to exceed 75% of costs incurred in excess of a set amount per mile.

As amended July 2, 2026, SB 872 by [Senator Jerry McNerney](#) (D-Stockton) would require DWR to reimburse 100% of the excess costs if a local agency demonstrates economic hardship and the reimbursement is for a project that addresses a threat to life, property, water supply, or habitat.

SB 872 would establish the Delta Levees and Canal Subsidence Fund in the State Treasury and, upon appropriation, would make the moneys in the fund available to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for expenditure. SB 872 would authorize the secretary to seek out, and the fund to accept, state moneys from, among other sources, any bond funds, the General Fund, or the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The bill would authorize the fund to accept moneys from nonstate sources, including federal and private moneys, and would continuously appropriate those moneys without regard to fiscal year, for allocation. SB 872 would require the secretary to allocate moneys in the fund subject to funding availability, as follows: (1) to DWR for the purposes of supporting capital improvements to restore the original design water conveyance capacity for state water conveyance systems, as defined, impacted operationally by land subsidence, and (2) to DWR for projects in the Delta or Suisun Marsh to improve existing levees.

SB 872 would require the Conservancy to convene a working group with specified representation to develop a list of recommended projects. The bill would require the Conservancy to publish the list on its internet website, allow 45 days for public comment, and hold at least one community meeting before the list is approved by the Conservancy's governing board.

SB 872 would require DWR to administer any grants or funding agreements from the list of projects. The bill would require at least 15% of the funds for projects in the Delta or Suisun Marsh to be for Delta levee projects from the list developed by the working group. The bill would authorize DWR to impose additional requirements on projects to meet the conditions of the funding source. The bill would prohibit

these moneys from being expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of any additional Delta conveyance facilities.

SB 872 would require DFW to provide a report to the budget committees of the Assembly and Senate no later than May 1, 2027, and biennially thereafter, that contains a 5-year spending plan detailing the engineering and capital improvements necessary to address state water conveyance systems impacted operationally by land subsidence.

SB 872 is intended to address increasing risks associated with climate change, aging infrastructure, sea level rise, and severe land subsidence impacting California's water delivery system and Delta levees.

SB 872 would provide a long-term funding mechanism to implement the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Levees Investment Strategy while helping protect California's water supply infrastructure, Delta communities, Suisun Marsh and Delta wetlands, wildlife habitat, and agricultural lands from flooding, levee instability, and subsidence-related impacts.

SB 872 was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 7, passing out on a unanimous vote. SB 872 was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 14, amended, and passed out to the Senate Floor via another unanimous vote. SB 872 passed off the Senate Floor and over to the Assembly on May 19 on a 39-0 vote.

Once in the Assembly, SB 872 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 30, passing out on a unanimous vote.

SB 872 must next be considered in the Assembly Appropriations Committee but has not yet been set to be heard. SB 872 must be heard and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor by August 14 to meet the legislative deadline.

To view all the information available on SB 872, click [SB 872 Detail](#)

- **[SB 948 \(Arreguín\)](#) - Firearms: Safety Certificates**

Existing law requires any person who purchases or receives a firearm to possess a firearm safety certificate. Currently, to obtain a firearm safety certificate an individual must be at least 18 years old and pass a written 30-question test with a score of 75% or better.

As amended July 2, 2026, SB 948 by [Senator Jesse Arreguín](#) (D-Oakland) would require, beginning July 1, 2028, that all new firearm safety certificate applicants complete at least eight hours of training – including firearm safety instruction and live-fire range exercises – before receiving a certificate. SB 948 would also require personal firearm importers to obtain a valid firearm safety certificate and prohibit a person from bringing a firearm into this state without obtaining a valid firearm safety certificate within 180 days.

SB 948 would significantly increase the time, cost, and training requirements to obtain a firearm safety certificate, potentially creating barriers for law-abiding individuals seeking to purchase or bring firearms into the state. The added training and live-fire mandate could reduce access, particularly for lower-income applicants, rural residents with limited range access, and new firearm owners, while expanding regulatory and enforcement burdens at the local level.

SB 948 was heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee on March 17, passing out and to the Senate Appropriations Committee on a party line vote. SB 948 was then heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 14, passing out and to the Senate Floor on another party line vote. SB 948 was brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor on May 27, passing out on a 28-9 party-line vote.

Once in the Assembly, SB 948 was heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on June 30, passing out on a 7-1 party-line vote.

SB 948 must next be considered in the Assembly Appropriations Committee but has not yet been set to be heard. SB 948 must be heard and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor by August 14 to meet the legislative deadline.

To view all the information available on SB 948, click [SB 948 Detail](#)

- **[SB 1021 \(Choi\)](#) - Fishing and Hunting: Youth Program**

As amended June 17, 2026, SB 1021 by [Senator Steve Choi](#) (R-Irvine) would, upon appropriation of funding by the Legislature, require the Fish and Game Commission to, on or before January 1, 2028, adopt regulations to increase opportunities to fish, and to hunt big game, wild pigs, upland game birds, and migratory game birds, for resident youth with life-threatening illnesses. The bill would require the Commission, in adopting those regulations, to ensure reasonable accommodations for participants are incorporated into the regulations and to consider authorizing special hunts. SB 1021 would authorize the Commission to include in the regulations additional reasonable accommodations consistent with safe, ethical, and science-based wildlife management practices.

SB 1021 would require DFW to, on or before January 1, 2032, prepare and submit a report to the relevant legislative policy and budget committees in both houses of the Legislature and to the Commission.

SB 1021 would sunset on January 1, 2033.

SB 1021 would expand access to hunting and fishing for youth facing significant life challenges, offering restorative outdoor experiences, mentorship, and a sense of normalcy and community. It would also help foster conservation values and connect participants to California's outdoor heritage.

SB 1021 is sponsored by the *California Rifle & Pistol Association*.

SB 1021 was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on March 24, passing out and to the Senate Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote. SB 1021 was then heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 14, amended, and passed out to the Senate Floor via another unanimous vote. SB 1021 was brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor on May 27, passing out and to the Assembly on a 35-4 vote.

Once in the Assembly, SB 1021 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 16, passing out on a 9-1 vote to the Assembly Appropriations Committee where it was promptly placed on the suspense file.

SB 1021 has until August 14 to be heard and passed out of Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in support of SB 1021, click [SB 1021 Sen NRW Support](#)

To view all the information available on SB 1021, click [SB 1021 Detail](#)

- **[SB 1135 \(Blakespear\)](#) - California Wildlife Coexistence Act**

As amended June 3, 2026, SB 1135 by [Senator Catherine S. Blakespear](#) (D-Carlsbad) would, upon appropriation of funding by the Legislature, require DFW to establish the Wildlife Coexistence Program to manage and promote wildlife coexistence by conducting a variety of specified activities, including: maintaining a statewide wildlife incident reporting tool; managing, tracking, and responding to wildlife conflict calls, reports, and incident responses; proactively implementing best practices that emphasize ecologically appropriate nonlethal conflict resolution solutions; investigating, documenting, and analyzing reported human-wildlife incidents; and supporting community-based efforts in coordination with wildlife coexistence partners and providing technical assistance, resources, and recommendations.

SB 1135 would rename the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Pilot Program to the Wolf-Livestock Coexistence and Compensation Program and would, upon appropriation of funding, require DFW to establish the program to provide resources to eligible participants for purposes relating to wolves and livestock. SB 1135 would authorize DFW to provide resources to wildlife coexistence partners, to support efforts required for the Wildlife Coexistence Program and the Wolf-Livestock Coexistence and Compensation Program.

SB 1135 would also require DFW to establish the Wildlife Coexistence Technical Advisory Committee consisting of 11 to 15 members to provide technical guidance, public input, and programmatic recommendations related to DFW's wildlife coexistence efforts.

SB 1135 was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 14, passing out and to the Senate Appropriations Committee on a party line vote. SB 1135 was then heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 14, passing out and to the Senate Floor on a 6-1 vote. SB 1135 was brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor on May 22, passing out and over to the Assembly on a 29-2 vote.

Once in the Assembly, SB 1135 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 30, passing out on a party-line vote.

SB 1135 must next be considered in the Assembly Appropriations Committee but has not yet been set to be heard. SB 1135 must be heard and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor by August 14 to meet the legislative deadline.

To view all the information available on SB 1135, click [SB 1135 Detail](#)

- **[SB 1250 \(Cortese\)](#) - State Highway System: Wildlife Connectivity**

As amended May 14, 2026, SB 1250 by [Senator Dave Cortese](#) (D-San Jose) would require the targets and performance measures adopted by the California Transportation Commission to include measures reflecting state transportation goals and objectives for wildlife connectivity assets that reflect the need for new assets and conditions of existing assets that improve or maintain the connectivity of wildlife

crossings on the state highway system. SB 1250 would also direct Caltrans to include wildlife connectivity assets in its statewide transportation asset management plan.

SB 1250 would also require Caltrans to comprehensively review wildlife connectivity needs and work jointly with DFW to develop and regularly update an inventory of priority locations where wildlife passage improvements are needed.

SB 1250 would improve wildlife movement and habitat connectivity across California by prioritizing wildlife crossings and other infrastructure that reduce habitat fragmentation. By strengthening coordination between Caltrans and DFW, it would also help reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, enhance public safety, and support healthier, more sustainable wildlife populations.

Double-referred, SB 1250 was first heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on April 7 passing out on a unanimous vote. SB 1250 was then heard in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 21 passing out and to the Senate Appropriations Committee on another unanimous vote. On May 14, SB 1250 was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee, amended, and passed out to the Senate Floor on a party line vote. On May 19, SB 1250 was brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor, easily passing out and to the Assembly via a bipartisan 37-0 vote.

Once in the Assembly, SB 1250 was again double-referred – passing out of the Assembly Transportation Committee on June 22 on an 11-4 vote, and then out of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 30 on a 9-1 vote.

SB 1250 must next be considered in the Assembly Appropriations Committee but has not yet been set to be heard. SB 1250 must be heard and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor by August 14 to meet the legislative deadline.

To view all the information available on SB 1250, click [SB 1250 Detail](#)

- [SB 1305 \(Richardson\)](#) - **Wildlife: Grizzly Bears**

As amended July 2, 2026, SB 1305 by [Senator Laura Richardson](#) (D-Inglewood) would, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature, require DFW to develop and make publicly available a roadmap that evaluates whether, and under what conditions, reintroduction of the grizzly bear is feasible and advisable, and the extent to which the ecological functions once provided by the grizzly bear may be restored through human-mediated landscape restoration, including through reintroduction of the species. As amended, SB 1305 would authorize DFW to contract with outside specialists in developing and completing the roadmap.

The bill would also require DFW, by June 30, 2030, to submit the roadmap document to relevant budget and policy committees of the Legislature, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and the Fish and Game Commission. The bill would prohibit reintroduction of the grizzly bear in the state until DFW or others have carried out various actions, including, among other things, completion of the roadmap, determinations, based on the best available science, that establishment of a self-sustaining grizzly population in the state is biologically viable, and a consultation with California Native American tribes. SB 1305 would also require DFW to engage with the University of California, local governments, law enforcement agencies, landowners, land managers, regional conservation organizations, outdoor recreation organizations, residents, stakeholders, and other experts in wildlife conservation and grizzly bear reintroduction.

Reintroducing grizzly bears into California would dramatically escalate an already intensifying predator management crisis. The state is currently grappling with overabundant black bear populations, expanding mountain lion numbers, the rapid growth of gray wolf packs, and unprecedented conflicts involving coyotes. Human–wildlife encounters with all these predators are rising sharply statewide, including documented attacks and fatalities, while rural communities endure sustained livestock and pet depredation and growing public safety concerns.

Adding the grizzly - North America’s most dominant terrestrial apex predator - would place even greater pressure on residents, ranchers, hunters, and other outdoor recreationists, as well as on California’s already fragile deer herds. In many regions, deer populations are in steep decline due to heavy predation from bears and mountain lions, compounded by habitat loss and segregation, prolonged drought, and wildfire impacts. Introducing grizzlies into this already stressed system could further suppress deer recovery and severely complicate science-based wildlife management.

Beyond biological consequences, reintroduction would likely trigger sweeping regulatory restrictions, land-use limitations, expanded litigation, and substantial long-term costs for taxpayers. In effect, the proposal risks layering a new and irreversible predator management crisis onto an already strained and reactive wildlife framework.

At a time when the state is doing little to actively manage the apex predators already on the landscape, introducing the grizzly bear – the top of the predator hierarchy – would be a serious policy mistake.

SB 1305 was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 7 passing out and to the Senate Appropriations Committee on a party line vote. On May 14, SB 1305 was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee, amended, and passed out to the Senate Floor on a party line vote. On May 27, SB 1305 was brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor, passing out and over to the Assembly on a 29-9 party-line vote.

Once in the Assembly, SB 1305 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 30, passing out on an 8-2 party-line vote.

SB 1305 must next be considered in the Assembly Appropriations Committee but has not yet been set to be heard. SB 1305 must be heard and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor by August 14 to meet the legislative deadline.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in strong opposition to SB 1305, click [SB 1305 Sen NRW Oppose](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee in strong opposition to SB 1305, click [SB 1305 Sen Approps Oppose](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in strong opposition to SB 1305, click [SB 1305 Assy WPW Oppose](#)

To view all the information available on SB 1305, click [SB 1305 Detail](#)

- **[SB 1397 \(Alvarado-Gil\)](#) - Mountain Lions: Human-Mountain Lion Conflict Program**

As introduced July 1, 2026, SB 1397 by [Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil](#) (R-El Dorado Hills) would require DFW, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature, to maintain, enhance, and expand its human–mountain lion conflict prevention program in the region DFW determines to have been most impacted by human-mountain lion conflict. In making this determination, DFW may consider the number of depredation reports, reported mountain lion incidents, or other relevant factors. SB 1397 would direct DFW to increase use of authorized nonlethal deterrence methods, expand scientific research on preventing mountain lions from entering communities and becoming habituated to humans, and conduct public outreach efforts.

SB 1397 would sunset on January 1, 2033.

SB 1397 would strengthen proactive efforts to reduce human–mountain lion conflicts by expanding nonlethal deterrence, scientific research, and public outreach. By emphasizing methods that prevent habituation and reestablish lions’ natural wariness of humans – including the possible responsible use of trained hounds for pursuit and hazing – SB 1397 may help reduce livestock depredation and human–lion encounters in residential and recreational areas. Expanded nonlethal deterrence authorities could provide additional opportunities to reinforce avoidance behavior, improving public safety while maintaining existing protection for the species.

SB 1397 was heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 14, passing out and to the Senate Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote. SB 1397 was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 14, amended, and passed out to the Senate Floor via a unanimous vote.

On May 28, SB 1397 passed off the Senate Floor and over to the Assembly on consent.

Once in the Assembly, SB 1397 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on June 30, passing out via a unanimous vote.

SB 1397 must next be considered in the Assembly Appropriations Committee but has not yet been set to be heard. SB 1397 must be heard and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor by August 14 to meet the legislative deadline.

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in support of SB 1397, click [SB 1397 Sen NRW Support](#)

To view the wildlife conservation coalition letter to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in support of SB 1397, click [SB 1397 Assy WPW Support](#)

To view all the information available on SB 1397, click [SB 1397 Detail](#)

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