

California

The following list of bills are the ones NFIB narrowed to the most important, positively or negatively, to small businesses. Bills that failed or were vetoed were kept on the list as a reminder of what was tried and what could resurface in another bill, given the Legislature's ability to use trailer bills and gut-and-replace tactics. Descriptions are taken, with some editing, from the first sentence of the bill, or from letters of opposition or support.

Good for Small Business Bills

- <u>AB 1845 (Alanis) --</u> This bill would, until January 1, 2030, create the Identifying, Apprehending, and Prosecuting Resale of **Stolen Property Grant Program** to be administered by the [Board of State and Community Corrections].
- AB 1894 (Ta) -- This bill would require a district to provide a person with a period of not less than 30 days to rectify a violation before the person may be subject to those civil penalties. In Assembly. <u>Background information here.</u>
- AB 1923 (Davies) -- This bill would establish the Green Assistance Program within
 the California Environmental Protection Agency to, among other things, assist small
 businesses and small nonprofit organizations in applying for moneys from the
 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. NFIB sent a <u>letter of support</u> to the Assembly
 Natural Resources Committee.
- <u>AB 1928 (Sanchez) --</u> The bill would declare that its purpose is to suspend and nullify the California Supreme Court's decision in **Dynamex** and provide that this decision does not apply for purposes of California law. In Assembly.
- <u>AB 1972 (Alanis) --</u> This bill would expand that crime [organized retail theft] to include merchandise stolen from a **merchant's cargo**.
- AB 2030 (Davies) -- The **Small Business Procurement and Contract Act** authorizes a state agency to award a contract for goods, services, or information technology with an estimated value of greater than \$5,000 but less than \$250,000 to a certified small business, including a microbusiness and a disabled veteran business enterprise, without complying with certain competitive bidding requirements ... This bill would expand the above-described authorization to permit a state agency to

award a contract for goods, services, or information technology with an estimated value of greater than \$5,000 but less than \$250,000 to an LGBT business enterprise, a minority business enterprise, or a women business enterprise, as defined.

- <u>AB 2274 (Dixon) --</u> Tax holiday. This bill, on and after January 1, 2025, would exempt from those taxes the gross receipts from the sale of, and the storage, use, or other consumption of, any **tangible personal property** purchased during the first weekend in August, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday.
- <u>AB 2371 (Carrillo) --</u> This bill ... would, for manufacturing or industrial property, or property that is legally authorized to be used for specified commercial purposes, that meets specified requirements, prohibit a city, county, or city and county from prohibiting the installation and operation of an **electrified security fence**. NFIB's letter of support can be <u>read here</u>.
- AB 2406 (Davies) -- This bill would make it a crime to knowingly promote, employ, use, persuade, induce, or coerce 2 or more minors under 18 years of age to engage in specified theft-related offenses. NFIB sent a <u>letter of support</u> to the Assembly Public Safety Committee.
- ACA 19 (Gallagher) -- The measure would ... require, in any fiscal year the
 unemployment insurance debt is not paid, the Legislature to include an
 appropriation for that debt repayment and ensure that the appropriation for that
 debt receives the greatest percentage of appropriated moneys compared to any
 other obligation or purpose funded by the Legislature under the above-described
 provisions.
- <u>SB 928 (Niello) --</u> This bill would extend the operation of the crime of **organized retail theft** indefinitely. By extending the operation of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
- <u>SB 1259 (Niello) --</u> This bill would authorize a defendant, in an action brought under **CEQA** [California Environmental Quality Act], to file a motion requesting the plaintiff or petitioner to identify every person or entity that contributes in excess of \$10,000, as specified, toward the plaintiff's or petitioner's costs of the action.

Bad for Small Business Bills

- AB 518 (Wicks) -- This bill would expand eligibility for benefits under the **paid family leave program** to include individuals who take time off work to care for a seriously ill individual related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship. In Senate.
- <u>AB 1198 (Grayson) --</u> This bill would require the Energy Unit to identify, among other things, non-ratepayer-funded energy industry resources, including grants, tax credits, loans, and technical assistance, across local, state, and federal departments and agencies that are available to assist businesses and workers in the transition to a **net-zero-powered economy.**
- <u>AB 1359 (Schiavo) --</u> The bill would permit **accrued paid sick days** to carry over to the following year of employment for those employees, subject to certain conditions, and would prohibit a covered health care facility from limiting an employee's use of accrued paid sick days. In Senate.
- AB 1516 (Kalra) -- This bill would require the Labor and Workforce Development
 Agency to convene a working group to study and evaluate topics related to the
 minimum wage in California. The bill would require the working group to submit to
 the Legislature, on or before July 1, 2024, a report that outlines recommendations for
 raising the minimum wage for all workers in California. In Senate.
- AB 1757 (Judiciary Committee) -- The bill would authorize a civil action by a person
 who is unable to obtain equally effective communication or full and equal enjoyment
 of an internet website, the content of an internet website, or goods and services
 offered to the public on an internet website. In Senate
- AB 1870 (Ortega) -- This bill would require workers' compensation notices to include information concerning an injured employee's ability to consult a licensed attorney to advise them of their rights under workers' compensations laws. In Assembly. In Assembly.
- AB 2200 (Kalra) -- This bill, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act, would create the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents in the state.
- <u>AB 2374 (Haney) --</u> This bill would ... **define the term "contractor"** to mean any person that employs janitor employees and that enters into a service contract with

the awarding authority.

- AB 2421 (Low) -- Would effectively create a new privilege between an employee and any person who represents the employee and could apply in workplace investigations, administrative proceedings, and civil litigation, among other situations.
- AB 2499 -- This bill would revise and recast the jury, court, and victim **time off provisions** for employees as unlawful employment practices within the California Fair Employment and Housing Act and, thus, within the enforcement authority of the Civil Rights Department.
- <u>AB 2738 --</u> The bill would ... require moneys recovered by public prosecutors under the Labor Code to be applied first to payments due to affected workers, then to **attorney's fees** and costs if otherwise authorized by this code.
- AB 2754 (Rendon) -- As drafted, AB 2754 instead implicates nearly every customer
 and transportation service provider in the supply chain as jointly liable for
 payment of wages, worker's compensation and reimbursement of business
 expenses where a worker receives, picks up, or delivers freight at the shipper or
 consignee's premises, facility or worksite. More information can be read in a letter of
 opposition sent to the author by a coalition of business groups NFIB is part of.
- <u>SB 984 (Wahab) --</u> This bill would authorize a state agency to undertake a major state construction project only if that project is governed by a **project labor agreement** and if that project labor agreement includes community benefit goals, as specified, and would define various terms for these purposes. In Senate.
- <u>SB 988 (Wiener) --</u> This bill would impose minimum requirements, commencing January 1, 2025, relating to contracts between a hiring party and a freelance worker, defined as a person, as specified, that is hired or retained as an **independent contractor** by a hiring party to provide professional services in exchange for an amount equal to or greater than \$250. In Senate.
- <u>SB 1103 (Menjivar) --</u> This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to subsequently amend this bill to increase transparency and equity in the application of common area maintenance and other fees charged to qualifying **commercial tenants** for leases executed on or after January 1, 2025.

- <u>SB 1116 (Portantino) --</u> This bill would restore eligibility for **unemployment benefits** after the first two weeks for an employee who left work because of a trade dispute. NFIB is part of a coalition with 110 other business associations that sent a <u>joint letter of opposition</u> to the author.
- <u>SB 1167 (Blakespear) --</u> would prohibit a chain restaurant from serving or offering for sale a beverage in a **single-use drinking vessel** to a customer that is dining or consuming the beverage on the premises.
- ACA 3 (Lee) -- This measure would authorize the Legislature to impose a **tax upon all forms of personal property** or wealth, whether tangible or intangible, and would require any tax so imposed to be administered and collected by the Franchise Tax Board and the Department of Justice, as determined by the Legislature in statute.
- <u>ACA 11 (Ting) --</u> This measure would **abolish the State Board of Equalization** and instead require the Legislature to create a state tax agency by statute for purposes of carrying out those powers, duties, and responsibilities previously vested in the State Board of Equalization by the California Constitution and by statute.
- <u>SB 399 (Wahab) --</u> This bill, except as specified, would **prohibit an employer** from requiring its employees to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or participate in any communications with the employer or its agents or representatives, the purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion about religious matters, political matters, or certain rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and California Constitution, as defined. NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be <u>read here.</u> In Assembly.
- SB 729 (Menjivar) -- This bill would require a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy that is issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of **infertility and fertility** services. NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be <u>read here</u>. In Assembly
- <u>SCA 7 (Umberg) --</u> This measure, the Right to Organize and Negotiate Act, would ensure that all Californians have **the right to join a union** and to negotiate with their employers, through their legally chosen representative, and the right to protect their economic well-being and safety at work. NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be <u>read here.</u> In Senate.

Watch List

• <u>AB 610 --</u> This bill would **exempt additional restaurants** from the definition of "fast food restaurant," including such restaurants in airports, hotels, event centers, theme parks, museums, and certain other locations, as prescribed.

Bad for Small Business Bills Vetoed by the Governor

- AB 524 (Wicks) -- This bill would prohibit employment discrimination on account of
 family caregiver status, as defined, and would recognize the opportunity to seek,
 obtain, and hold employment without discrimination because of family caregiver
 status as a civil right, as specified. NFIB and its business coalition partners have sent
 a veto-request letter to the governor. Governor's veto message.
- <u>AB 1213 (Ortega) --</u> This bill would require that if a denial of treatment requested by a treating physician is subsequently overturned by independent medical review or by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, any temporary disability paid or owing from the date of the denial until the treatment is authorized would not be included in the calculation of the aggregate **disability payments.** Governor's <u>veto message</u>.
- AB 1356 (Haney) -- Unnecessarily expands the requirements under California's WARN Act in two ways. First, it increases the amount of notice time from 60 days to 75 days without justification. Second, recent amendments change the definition of "covered establishment" so that instead of applying to single locations with 75 or more employees, it now covers any business that employs 75 or more employees between all of their locations. NFIB and its business coalition partners have sent a veto-request letter to the governor. Governor's veto message.
- SB 627 (Smallwood-Cuevas) -- This bill would prohibit an employer from closing a
 covered establishment unless the employer gives a displacement notice, as
 prescribed, to the covered workers and their exclusive representative, if any, 60 days
 before the closure takes effect. Governor's veto message.
- SB 799 (Portantino) -- This bill would restore **eligibility [for unemployment benefits]** after the first 2 weeks for an employee who left work because of a trade dispute. NFIB joined the California Business Roundtable and other groups in sending this <u>veto-request letter</u> to the governor and 109 other business associations on another <u>veto-request letter</u>. Governor's <u>veto message</u>.

Good for Small Business Bills Vetoed by the Governor

• <u>SB 271 (Dodd) --</u> This bill would, except as specified, require an original equipment manufacturer of a **powered wheelchair**, as those terms are defined, to provide documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, and tools used to inspect, diagnose, maintain, and repair the wheelchair to an owner or an independent repair provider for the purposes of providing service on the equipment in the state, on fair and reasonable terms and costs, as defined.

Bad for Small Business Bills Dead Pursuant to Article IV, Section 10(c)

(Any bill introduced during the first year of the biennium of the legislative session that has not been passed by the house of origin by January 31 of the second calendar year of the biennium may no longer be acted on by the house.)

- AB 259 (Lee) -- This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2026, **impose an annual tax** at a rate of 1.5% of a resident of this state's worldwide net worth in excess of \$1,000,000,000, or in excess of \$500,000,000 in the case of a married taxpayer filing separately. NFIB and its coalition partners sent this letter of opposition to Assemblymember Alex Lee, who authored the measure.
- <u>AB 362 (Lee) --</u> This bill would require the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to conduct or commission a study on the efficacy of a statewide **land value taxation system** as an alternative to the current appraisal methods utilized for real property taxation.
- AB 1156 (Bonta) -- This bill would define "injury," for a hospital employee who
 provides direct patient care in an acute care hospital, to include infectious diseases,
 cancer, musculoskeletal injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and respiratory
 diseases. NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be <u>read here.</u>
- <u>AB 1714 (Wood) --</u> This bill would define "public utility" to include a corporation providing **broadband service** to the public or a portion of the public.
- <u>SB 397 (Wahab) --</u> This bill would require the state board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish a program to install and maintain **electric vehicle service equipment** at safety roadside rests.

• <u>SB 809 (Smallwood-Cuevas)</u> -- This bill would require that information to also include either all laws and regulations that impose restrictions or prohibitions for employment on the basis of a conviction, if any, or all the specific job duties of the position for which a conviction may have a direct and adverse relationship that has the potential to result in an **adverse employment action**, as described. NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be <u>read here</u>.

Other Bad for Small Business Bills Dead

- AB 747 (McCarty) -- This bill would modify the definition of "ownership interest" to require the partnership interest, membership interest, or capital stock to be more than a 10% interest of the total partnership interest, more than a 10% interest of the total membership interest, or more than 10% of the total shares of ownership of the entity, respectively. [Died on Third Reading File]
- <u>AB 1690 (Kalra) --</u> This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to guarantee accessible, affordable, equitable, and high-quality **health care** for all Californians through a comprehensive universal single-payer health care program. [Died at the desk.]

Good for Small Business Bills Signed into Law

- <u>AB 1355 (Valencia)</u> -- Authorizes employer to supply individuals with **electronic statements** or materials relating to claims for benefits if the individual opts into receipt of electronic statements or materials. NFIB's letter of support can be <u>read</u> here.
- AB 258 (Reyes) Existing law sets out certain provisions for the Office of Small
 Business Advocate within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic
 Development (GO-Biz). This bill would recast those provisions concerning the
 advocate's responsibility to post the above-described information on the Go-Biz
 internet website or the advocate's website, and would instead require the advocate
 to establish on the GO-Biz or advocate's internet website an internet web portal
 entitled "The Front Door."

Good for Small Business Resolutions Filed with the Secretary of State That Do Not Need Voter Approval (Resolutions do not require the signature of the governor)

• <u>Assembly Constitutional Resolution 80 (Villapudua) ---</u> This measure would declare May as **Small Business Month.** NFIB's coalition letter of support can be <u>read here.</u>

Bad for Small Business Bills Filed with the Secretary of State for Voter Approval/Rejection (Resolutions do not require approval of the governor)

- ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) -- This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements.
- ACA 13 (Ward) -- The California Constitution provides that a proposed constitutional amendment and a statewide initiative measure each take effect only if approved by a majority of the votes cast on the amendment or measure. This measure would further provide that an initiative measure that includes one or more provisions that would amend the Constitution to increase the voter approval requirement to adopt any state or local measure would be approved by the voters only if the proportion of votes cast in favor of the initiative measure is equal to or greater than the highest voter approval requirement that the initiative measure would impose.
 NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be read here. Chaptered.

Bad for Small Business Bills Signed into Law

- <u>AB 421 (Bryan) --</u> revises the **ballot title and summary** and ballot label requirements for statewide referendum measures by instead requiring that the ballot title and summary be posed in the form of a question asking whether the state should keep or overturn the law that is proposed to be overturned."
- AB 594 (Maienschein) -- This bill would authorize a public prosecutor, as defined, to prosecute an action, either civil or criminal, for a violation of specified provisions of the Labor Code. NFIB and its business coalition partners have sent a veto-request letter to the governor.
- <u>AB 647 (Holden) --</u> This bill would instead require the **successor grocery employer** to hire from the list for 120 days after the grocery establishment is fully operational

- and open to the public and retain each eligible grocery worker for at least 120 days after their commencement date, except as specified.
- <u>AB 1228 (Holden) --</u> The deal neutering the power of the newly created **Fast Food Council** if the fast-food industry withdraws its 2024 referendum. The bill also raises the minimum-wage rate for fast-food workers to \$20 an hour beginning April 2024.
- AB 1076 (Bauer-Kahan) -- This bill would codify existing case law by specifying that
 the statutory provision voiding **noncompete contracts** is to be broadly construed to
 void the application of any noncompete agreement in an employment context, or
 any noncompete clause in an employment contract, no matter how narrowly
 tailored, that does not satisfy specified exceptions.
- <u>SB 71 (Umberg) --</u> This bill would increase the **small claims court jurisdiction** over actions brought by a natural person, if the amount does not exceed \$25,000, except as specified, and would also increase the amount in controversy permitted in other specified actions within the jurisdiction of the small claims court.
- <u>SB 362 (Becker) --</u> The bill would require a **data broker** to register with, pay a registration fee to, and provide information to, the agency instead of the Attorney General and would require the agency to maintain the informational internet website. NFIB's letter of opposition to the senator can be <u>read here.</u> NFIB's veto-request letter to the governor can be <u>read here.</u>
- <u>SB 365 (Wiener) ---</u> This bill would additionally prohibit a trial court from **staying proceedings** during the pendency of an appeal of an order dismissing or denying a petition to compel arbitration. NFIB and its business coalition partners have sent a <u>veto-request letter</u> to the governor.
- <u>SB 497 (Smallwood-Cuevas) --</u> This bill would create a **rebuttable presumption** in favor of the employee's claim if an employer engages in any action prohibited by this provision within 90 days of the protected activity specified in this provision. NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be <u>read here</u>.
- <u>SB 525 (Durazo) --</u> This bill would require a health care worker **minimum wage of \$21** or \$23 per hour, depending on job classification, starting June 1, 2024, for hours worked in covered health care employment, as defined, subject to adjustment, as prescribed.

- <u>SB 553 (Cortese) --</u> authorizes a collective bargaining representative of an employee, as described above, to seek a temporary **restraining order** and an order after hearing on behalf of the employee and other employees at the workplace, as described. NFIB and its coalition's <u>letter of opposition here</u>.
- <u>SB 616 (Gonzalez) --</u> increase the number of **paid sick days** from three to five and modifies the employer's alternate sick leave accrual method to instead require that an employee have no less than 56 hours of accrued sick leave or paid time off by the 280th calendar day of employment or each calendar year, or in each 12-month period. NFIB and its business coalition partners have sent a <u>veto-request letter</u> to the governor.
- <u>SB 723 (Durazo)</u> -- This bill would redefine "laid-off employee" to mean any employee who was employed by the employer for 6 months or more and whose most recent separation from active employment by the employer occurred on or after March 4, 2020, and was a result of a public health directive, government shutdown order, lack of business, reduction in force, or other economic nondisciplinary reason. NFIB and its coalition's letter of opposition can be <u>read here</u>.
- <u>SBX1-2 (Skinner) --</u> requires the [California Energy] commission, if the commission establishes the maximum gross gasoline refining margin, to establish a penalty for exceeding the maximum gross **gasoline refining margin**, as provided.

Good for Small Business Bills Dead Pursuant to Article IV, Section 10(c) (Any bill introduced during the first year of the biennium of the legislative session that has not been passed by the house of origin by January 31 of the second calendar year of the biennium may no longer be acted on by the house.)

- <u>AB 23 (Muratsuchi) --</u> This bill would amend Proposition 47 by reducing the threshold amount for **petty theft and shoplifting** from \$950 to \$400.
- AB 335 (Alanis) -- This bill would require the Milton Marks "Little Hoover" Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy to submit a report to the Legislature describing the reported **retail thefts**, as specified.
- <u>AB 509 (Fong) --</u> This bill would include in the definition of "educational assistance" a payment made by an employer on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2034, paid or incurred by the employer, whether paid to the employee or to a lender, of principal or interest on a qualified education loan, as defined, relating to interest

on education loans, incurred by the employee for **education of the employee**. NFIB's letter of support can be <u>read here</u>.

- AB 778 (Ta) -- This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, would exempt corporations incorporated in this state from the minimum franchise tax until the first taxable year in which the corporation has gross receipts of \$20,000. The bill would also exempt a limited partnership, limited liability partnership, and limited liability company from the annual tax until the first taxable year in which the business has gross receipts of \$20,000.
- <u>AB 1278 (Rodriguez) --</u> This bill would allow an **injured employee** to authorize their primary treating physician to request an electronic copy of any notification that an injury is subject to an MPN [medical provider network] or that an employee is required to transfer treatment to an MPN.
- AB 1708 (Muratsuchi) -- This bill would require a person **convicted of petty theft or shoplifting**, if the person has 2 or more prior convictions for specified theft-related offenses, to be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, or for 16 months, or 2 or 3 years. Coalition member's letter of support can be <u>read here</u>.
- SB 316 (Niello) -- This bill would reinstate a provision of law that was repealed by Proposition 47 that provides that a person who has been **convicted 3 or more times** of petty theft, grand theft, or other specified crimes and who is subsequently convicted of petty theft is subject to imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year or in a county jail for 18 months or 2 or 3 years.
- SB 330 (Niello) -- This bill would require the notice, for alleged violations of the
 Labor Code other than those specified provisions relating to safety in employment,
 to instead include a statement setting forth the relevant facts, legal authorities, and
 authorities supporting each alleged violation. NFIB and its coalition letter of support
 can be read here.
- SB 366 (Caballero) -- The bill would require the department [Water Resources], in coordination with the California Water Commission, the State Water Resources Control Board, other state and federal agencies as appropriate, and the stakeholder advisory committee to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing the state's water needs and meeting specified water supply targets established by the bill for purposes of "The California Water Plan."

- <u>SB 375 (Alvarado-Gil) --</u>This bill would authorize an employer to claim, for the 2023 and 2024 calendar years, a **COVID-19 regulatory compliance credit** in a specified amount. NFIB's letter of support can be <u>read here</u>.
- <u>SB 581 (Caballero)</u> -- The bill would prohibit a **litigation financer** from taking certain actions, including paying or offering commissions, referral fees, or other forms of consideration to a legal representative, medical provider, or any of their employees for a referral to that financer, or making false or misleading statements. NFIB's letter of support can be <u>read here</u>.
- <u>SB 592 (Newman)</u> -- This bill would prohibit the **imposition of punishment or liability** for costs upon a person who has relied upon a published opinion letter or an enforcement policy, as defined, of DLSE that is displayed on the internet website of the division, except for restitution of unpaid wages, for violations of statutes or regulations in judicial or administrative proceedings if the person pleads and proves specified facts. NFIB and its coalition's letter of support can be <u>read here</u>.
- <u>SB 647 (Bradford) --</u> This bill would require that the clerk of the superior court allow **access to public information** that identifies criminal defendants to a person who certifies specified conditions under penalty of perjury. The bill would also permit the clerk of the court to audit persons who have accessed public record information upon reasonable written notice given at least 10 business days in advance.
- SB 703 (Niello) -- This bill would enact the California Workplace Flexibility Act of 2023. The bill would permit an individual nonexempt employee to request an employee-selected flexible work schedule providing for workdays up to 10 hours per day within a 40-hour workweek and would allow the employer to implement this schedule without the obligation to pay overtime compensation for those additional hours in a workday. NFIB and its coalition's letter of support can be read here.