



Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD)

Policy and Advocacy

February 2026





Roles and Responsibilities of CAOD



CAOD Bylaws

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

C: Policy and Planning Committee The Policy and Planning Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Review federal, State and County budgets and their impact on communities and delivery of programs and services in the County and regularly update the Commission on the same;
2. Review and make recommendations on all processes used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of planning for, delivery of, and evaluation of programs and services for prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction;
3. Review and advise on proposed federal, State and local legislation and laws that impact the alcohol and other drugs field and are within the committee's subject matter jurisdiction.



Policy and Advocacy



Board-Directed Federal and State Legislative Priorities

Equity

- Advocate for policies that promote equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and underserved communities.

Health, Public Health, and Behavioral Health

- Provide public health services that protect and promote health among individuals and communities, and address the growing need for prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services for individuals with behavioral and other health conditions.

Housing and Homelessness

- Reduce barriers to housing. Transition residents who are experiencing homelessness into safe, stable, and permanent housing. Implement effective strategies to reduce inflow into homelessness.

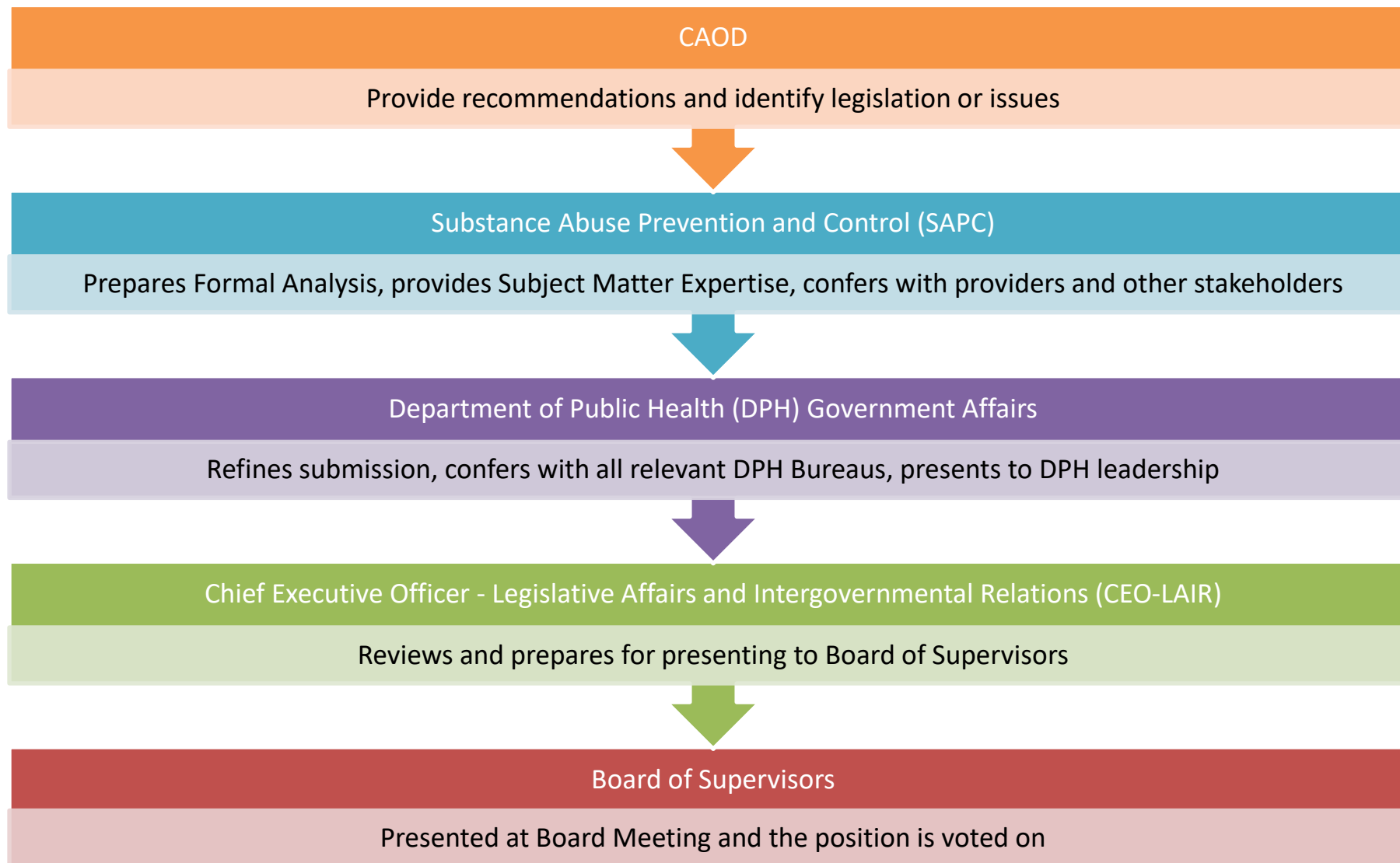
Human Services

- Alleviate financial hardship, address food insecurity, provide affordable health care, promote the well-being of families, prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect, provide aging and disability services, provide child support services, and prevent or mitigate poverty, all while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Justice, Public Safety, Emergency Management systems

- Support reforms to justice and public safety systems in pursuit of the “Care First, Jails Last” vision. Support preemptive emergency management and response investments.

County Legislative Position Process and Advocacy

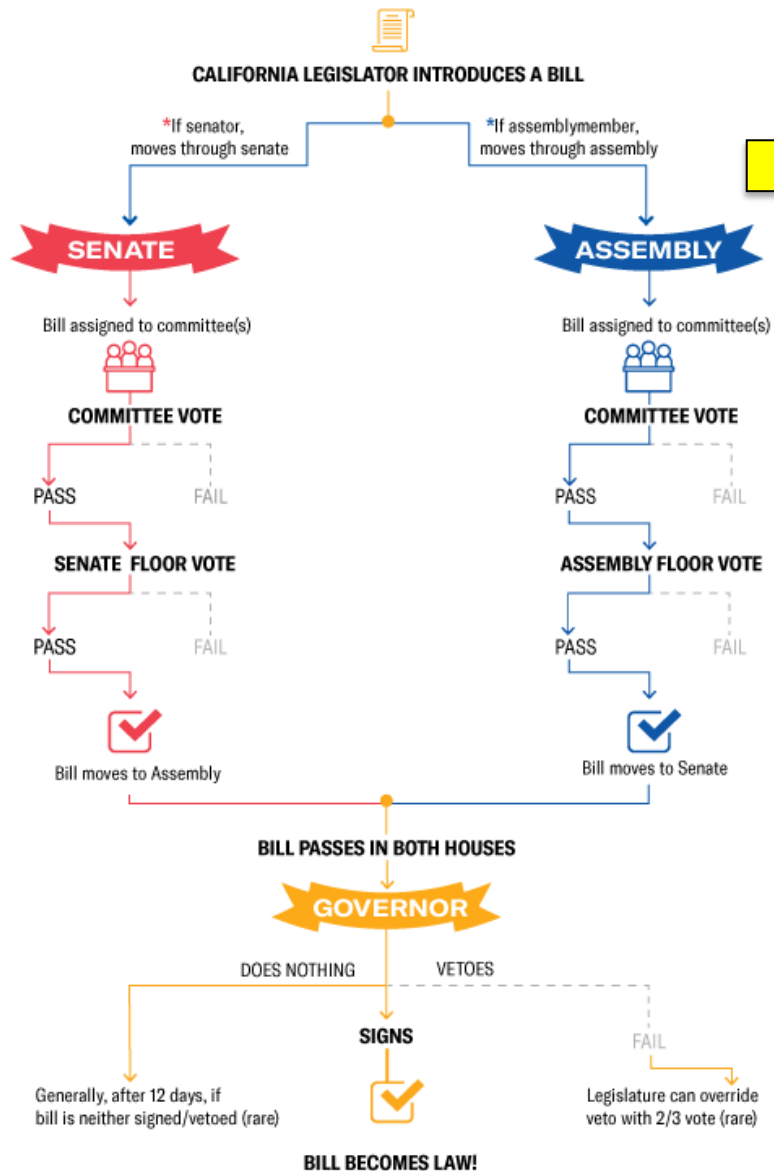




State Legislative Report Highlights



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



*Bills that start with "SB" are introduced in the senate
*Bills that start with "AB" are introduced in the assembly

California State Legislative Process



Bill Research and Prep – Fall to Winter



Bill Introductions – December to February



First House Committee Hearing(s) – February to May



First House Appropriations Suspense – End of May



House of Origins – End of May or early June



Second House Committee Hearing(s) – June to August (with Summer Recess in between)



Second House Appropriations Suspense – August or September



End of Session – End of August or early September



Last Day for Governor to Act – End of September or early October (30 days after End of Session)



Statutes take effect – January 1

Bill **AB 1586 (Ramos) Opioid overdose reversal medication: school resource officers.**

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools to: (1.) ensure that each school resource officer, while on duty, carries an opioid overdose reversal medication to provide emergency treatment, and (2.) ensure each school resource officer, upon assignment to a school site, and at least every two years thereafter, completes an opioid overdose recognition and response training.• Requires DHCS to provide implementation guidance on accessing opioid overdose reversal medications at low or no cost and integrating overdose response into school safety planning.
Status	1/15/26: From printer. May be heard in committee on 2/14/26.
Position	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Support

Bill **SB 490 (Umberg) Alcohol and drug programs. (Gut and Amend)**

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires DHCS to initiate an investigation within 10 days of receiving an allegation and complete the investigation within 60 days of initiating the investigation.• Authorizes DMC-ODS counties' behavioral health agency to request approval from DHCS to conduct a site visit of a recovery residence that is alleged to be operating without a license.• Requires DHCS to conduct a site visit of a certified program or licensed facility that has disclosed specified interest in the recovery residence. No later than July 15, 2026, and by July 15th each year thereafter, all programs certified or facilities licensed by DHCS must submit a report of all money transfers between the program or facility and a recovery residence during the previous fiscal year.
Status	1/26/26: In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.
Position	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Oppose

Bill **SB 758 (Umberg) Public health: nitrous oxide**

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prohibits cigarette and tobacco product retailers from selling nitrous oxide in any retail location.<ul style="list-style-type: none">A retailer does not include a grocery store or a general retail merchandise store with a grocery department.
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Status 1/27/26: In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Position	<p>DPH Position: Watch</p> <p>County Position: No position taken</p> <p>CBHDA Position: No position taken</p>
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Bill **AB 96 (Jackson) Mental health services: peer support specialist certification**

Summary	Removes the requirement of possessing a high school diploma or equivalent degree from the requirements necessary for an applicant to receive certification.
Status	1/27/26: In Senate. Read first time. To Committee on Rules for assignment.
Position	DPH Position: Support County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Support (Sponsor)

Bill **AB 1088 (Bains) Public health: kratom**

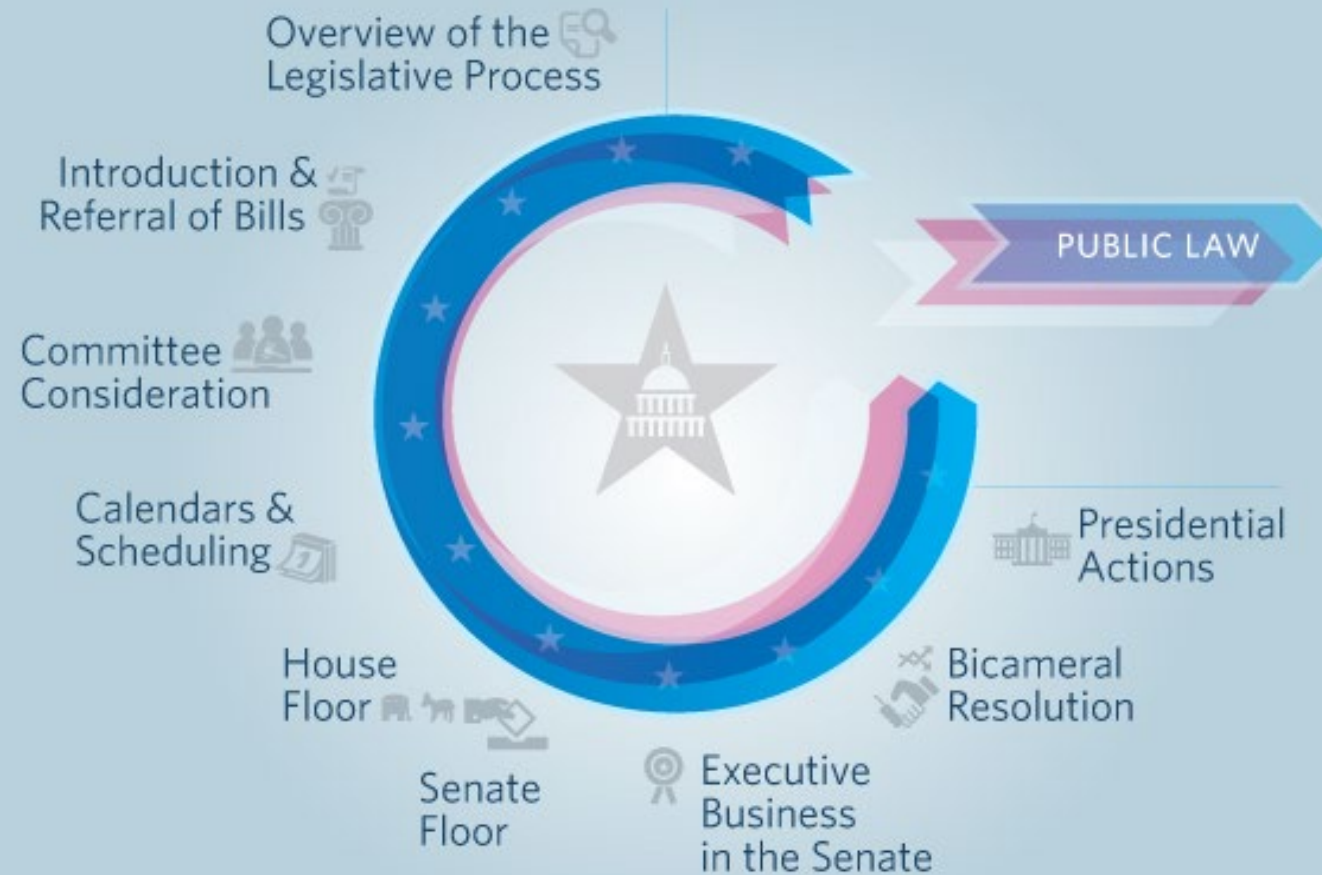
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds definitions for "kratom products" and "7-OH products."• Prescribes specified quantities of alkaloids present in kratom products and 7-OH products• Establishes labeling and packaging requirements• Prohibits the sale of kratom and 7-OH products to those under 21 years of age.
Status	6/11/25: Referred to Senate Committee on Health.
Position	DPH Position: Support if amended County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: No position taken



Federal Legislative Cycle



★ LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ★





Federal Policy Updates



Item	E.O. 14379 – Addressing Addiction Through the Great American Recovery Initiative
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Status	1/29/2026 – Signed by the President.
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| Summary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates the Great American Recovery Initiative, co-chaired by the HHS Secretary and Senior Advisor for Addiction Recovery. The Initiative will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend steps to coordinate the Federal Government's response to the SUD crisis, including by better aligning relevant Federal programs, setting clear objectives, and providing data-driven updates to the public on progress towards meeting those objectives.• Take appropriate actions to increase awareness of SUD.• Advise executive departments and agencies on how to implement programs.• Remove outdated silos between agencies, programs, or systems.• Advise agencies on directing appropriate grants to support addiction recovery.• Consult with States, tribal nations, local jurisdictions, public and private local organizations, and philanthropic entities on best strategies. |
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Item **H.R. 7148 – Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026.**

Status 2/3/2026 – Signed by the President.

- Summary
- Appropriations from the Continuing Resolution that ended the fall government shutdown expired on January 30, 2026. Another appropriation package has not yet been finalized by Congress; thus, a partial government shutdown has occurred.
 - HR 7138 funds key federal departments including Health and Human Services.
 - Maintains critical investments in public health at the CDC as well as behavioral health services at SAMHSA.
 - Rejects deep public health funding cuts proposed in the President's FY 2026 Budget Request.
 - Rejects the previous proposals to significantly restructure departments within public health agencies.

Item **H.R. 5462 – The Michelle Alyssa Go Act**

Status	9/18/2025 – Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
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| Summary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revises the definition of institution for mental diseases (IMDs) under the Medicaid program to exclude from such definition institutions having 36 beds or less if such institutions meet certain standards.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This change will remove barriers to creating more behavioral health beds |
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Item **H.R. 6104 – Dark Web Interdiction Act of 2025**

Status	11/18/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Energy and Commerce, and House Committee on Financial Services. Further referrals pending.
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Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HR 6104 prohibits the delivery or distribution of controlled substances (i.e. opioids) by means of the dark web, establishes a 2-level sentencing increase for violations, and establishes the Joint Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement Task Force.
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