



Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD)

Policy and Advocacy

September 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.

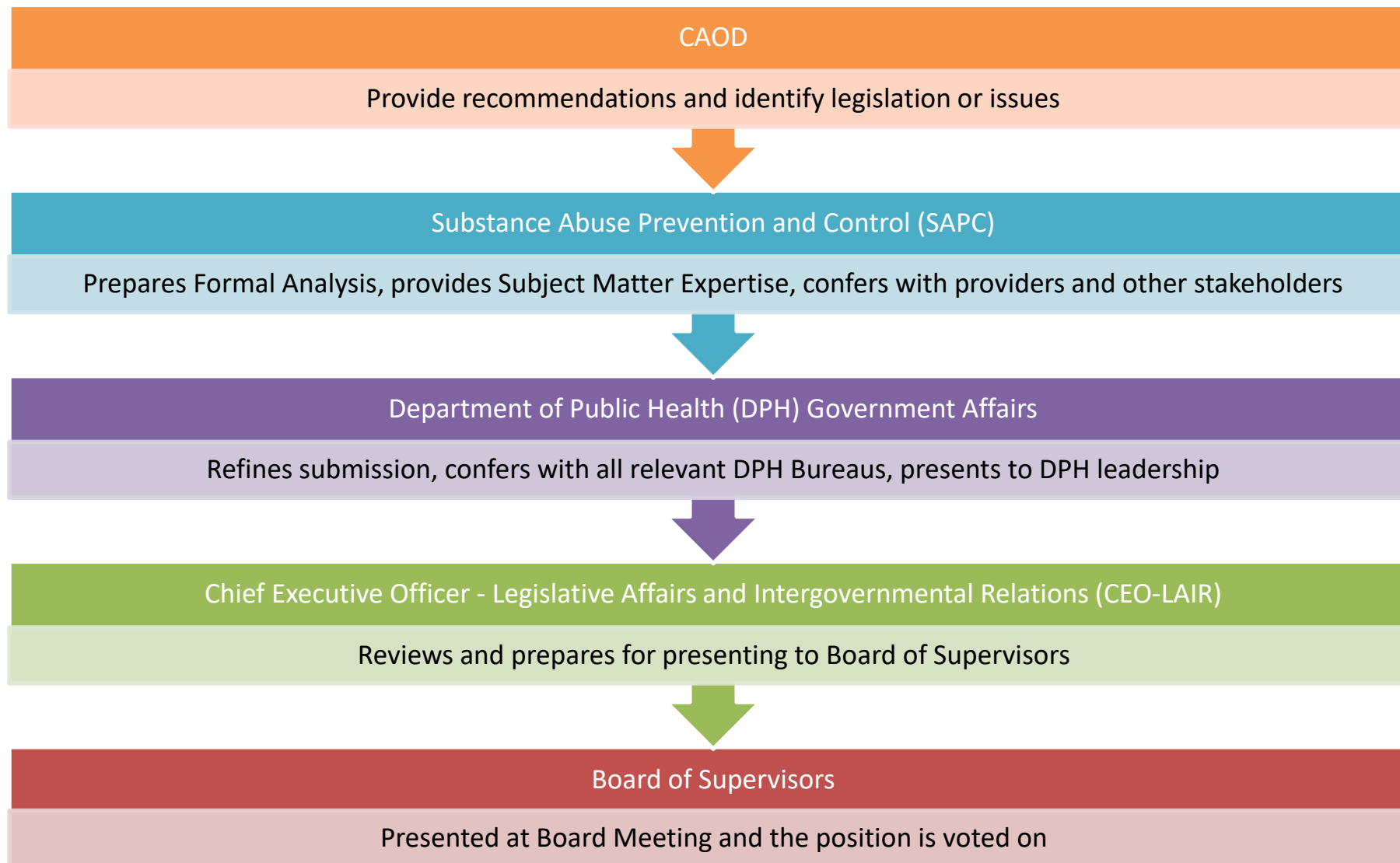
Human Services

- 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

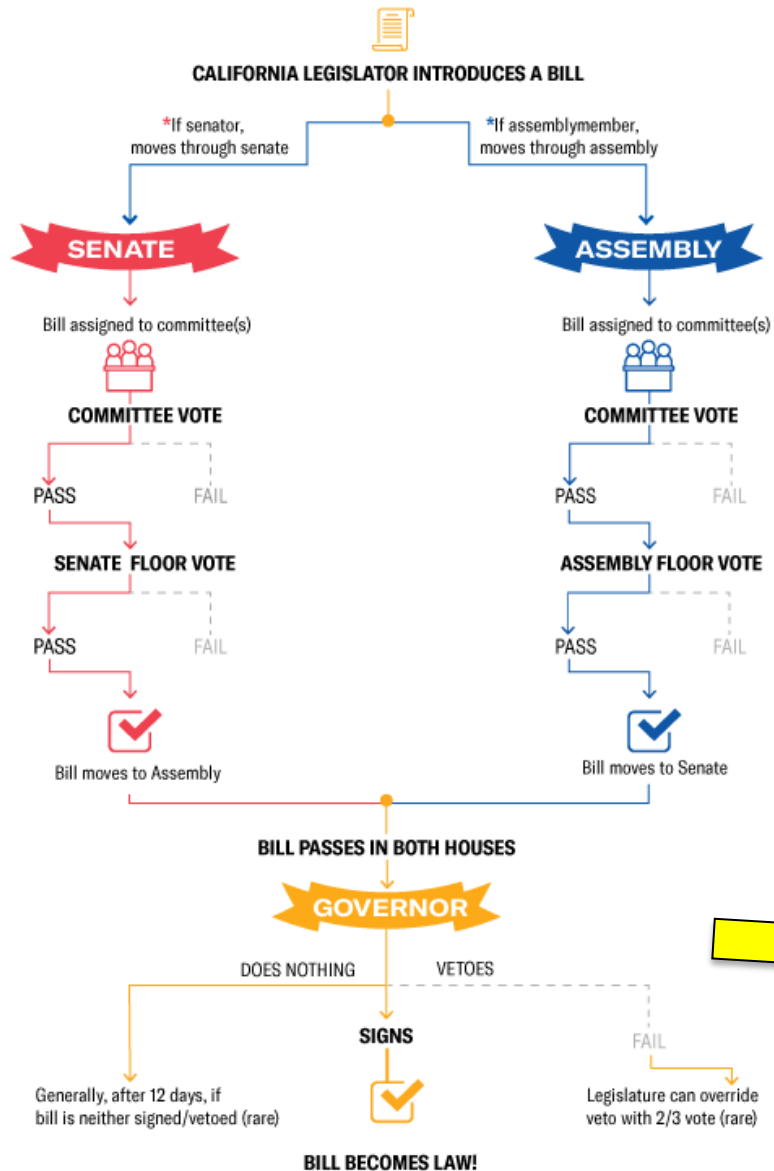




State Legislative Report Highlights



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

State Legislative Report Highlights: Prevention



Bill	Summary	Status	Position
AB 2076 (Lowenthal-D) – The Parent's Accountability and Child Protection Act: online marketplaces: nitrous oxide	Adds nitrous oxide to the list of specified products or services that require a person or a business that conducts a business in California to verify the purchaser is of legal age. Prohibits an online seller from allowing a purchaser to use a gift card for specified products or services that are illegal to sell to a minor.	8/31/26: Enrolled and presented to the Governor.	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: No position taken
SB 758 (Umberg-D) – Public health: nitrous oxide	Prohibits cigarette and tobacco product retailers from selling nitrous oxide in any retail location. A retailer does not include a grocery store or a general retail merchandise store with a grocery department. Adds the authority for a city or county to adopt an ordinance imposing greater restriction on the retail of nitrous oxide than those imposed by this section, provided it does not restrict legitimate uses.	8/30/26: Enrolled.	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Watch
SB 936 (Blakespear-D and Umberg-D) – Nitrous oxide: sales	Prohibits the sale of nitrous oxide containers that can hold more than 8 grams of nitrous oxide and containers that have, or is marketed to have, the taste or smell of any food. Prohibits knowingly selling or distributing a device that allows an individual to inhale nitrous oxide from the container or hold nitrous oxide for the purposes of inhalation. Authorizes a court to suspend a business license if the business has a prior conviction for violating these prohibitions and to revoke a license to sell tobacco products if the business has two prior convictions for violating these prohibitions. Prohibits tobacco retailers from selling nitrous oxide. Authorizes CDTFA to seize nitrous oxide products.	8/30/26: Enrolled.	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Watch

State Legislative Report Highlights: Prevention



Bill	Summary	Status	Position
AB 1586 (Ramos-D) Opioid overdose reversal medication: school resource officers.	Requires school resource officers, beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, to complete an opioid overdose recognition and response training upon assignment to a school site and every two years thereafter. Requires Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, in consultation with CDPH, to provide implementation guidance on accessing opioid overdose reversal medications at low or no cost and integrating overdose response into school safety planning. Introduces new annual reporting requirements on the number of times an opioid antagonist was administered and the type administered.	8/28/26: Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Support
AB 1669 (Pacheco-D) Student health: leaves of absence: mental health.	Requires all post-secondary educational institutions to adopt a written policy to allow a student to take a voluntary medical leave of absence for a period determined by the institution or one academic year, whichever is longer.	8/30/26: Enrolled.	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: No position taken
AB 1830 (Petrie-Norris-D, Calderon-D, Lackey-R, Ransom-D) Ignition interlock devices.	Makes the installation of an ignition interlock device (IID) mandatory upon conviction of a first DUI offense involving alcohol. Adopts mandatory IID/restricted license model for alcohol-involved DUI convictions. Allows first-time DUI offenders to opt for suspension of their driving privilege in lieu of maintaining a restricted license and IID. Requires a 30-day administrative license suspension prior to a person applying for a restricted license for a DUI involving alcohol. Repeals the existing statewide IID pilot program made obsolete by this bill.	8/19/26: Read second time. Ordered to third reading. (effectively dead).	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: No position taken

(Updated as of 9/1/2026)



State Legislative Report Highlights: Workforce

Bill	Summary	Status	Position
AB 96 (Jackson-D) Mental health services: peer support specialist certification	Removes the requirement of possessing a high school diploma or equivalent degree from the requirements necessary for an applicant to receive certification.	8/30/26: Enrolled.	DPH Position: Support County Position: Support CBHDA Position: Support (Sponsor)



State Legislative Report Highlights: Recovery Oriented-Housing

Bill	Summary	Status	Position
AB 1556 (Haney-D) Recovery residences funding	Would make recovery residences eligible for state funding if they meet specified Housing First and quality of care requirements.	8/28/26: Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Support
SB 490 (Umberg-D) Alcohol and drug programs. (Gut and Amend)	Requires DHCS to initiate an investigation within 10 days of receiving an allegation and complete the investigation within 120 days of assigning the complaint. 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, 2027, 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.	8/30/26: Enrolled.	DPH Position: Watch County Position: No position taken CBHDA Position: Oppose

- **AB 173 (Health Budget Trailer Bill)**

- AB 173 appropriates various federal grant funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) including
 - \$1.2 million for state operations related to implementation of the State Opioid Response Grant
 - \$105.6 million for local assistance related to implementation of the State Opioid Response Grant
 - \$6 million for local assistance related to expenditure of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
- AB 173 also implements various oversight provisions and expands service delivery for the state's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.



Federal Policy Updates



- **H.R. 1 Changes to Medicaid**

- The federal interim final rule [[CMS-2454-IFC](#)] went into effect on 7/31. This rule provides guidance to states for implementation of work requirements mandated by H.R. 1. The interim final rule (IFR) narrows the definition of the medical frailty exclusion, requiring states to verify that someone has a qualifying condition (substance use disorder and/or severe mental illness) and that the condition "significantly impairs" their ability to work.
- Several LA County departments have submitted a [joint public comment letter](#) to address significant concerns with this rule and provide recommendations for solutions.
- Several states, including California, have initiated litigation against the IFR. Implementation is still scheduled to begin on January 1, 2027 while the lawsuit continues.

- **Federal Public Charge Rule**

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a final rule [[USCIS-2025-0304](#)] that changes how immigration officials decide whether certain non-citizens applying for immigration status may be considered a "public charge".
- Effective 9/18/26, this rule raises concerns among immigrant families about accessing public programs and services.

- **Temporary Scheduling of 7-OH-Related Substances**

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a temporary order [[DEA-1644](#)] to schedule three 7-hydroxymitragynine-related substances as schedule I controlled substances: Mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM-15, and MGM-16.
- Effective August 26, 2026-August 26, 2028.

Bill	Summary	Status
S. 545 (Cortez-D) – Combatting Illicit Xylazine Act	Prohibits the illicit use of xylazine by classifying xylazine as a Schedule III substance of the Controlled Substances Act and requires certain reporting to be submitted to Congress on the prevalence and impacts of illicit use of xylazine in the U.S.	4/15/2026 – Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.
S. 3588 (Merkley-D) – School Access to Naloxone Act of 2026	Amends the Public Health Service Act to provide grant funding for trained school personnel to administer drugs and devices for emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose among public and private elementary and secondary schools.	3/19/2026 – In Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
H.R. 5462 (Goldman-D) – The Michelle Alyssa Go Act	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. This change will remove barriers to creating more behavioral health beds	9/18/2025 – Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 6104 (Pappas-D) – Dark Web Interdiction Act of 2025	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.	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.