



## **SB 254 (Becker)**

Tackles utility costs and expedites clean energy production, which will save consumers billions of dollars on energy bills in the coming years. It will require utility companies to use the most cost effective ways to save ratepayers money, expedite thousands of megawatts of clean energy projects, and creates a program to accelerate large-scale battery energy storage and cut red tape for clean energy projects. SB 254 also forces utilities to use the most cost effective wildfire mitigation plans, as rising wildfire mitigation costs have become some of the largest drivers of utility bill increases. The bill also adds transparency provisions for ratepayers at the Public Utilities Commission.

### **HOW IT HELPS**

- Will save consumers billions of dollars over the next decade on energy bills by making the current Wildfire Mitigation Plan more efficient, tackling what has caused the majority of recent increases.
- Hundreds of millions of dollars will be saved for new utility infrastructure by not allowing Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) to earn a profit on \$15 billion of capacity building and wildfire hardening.
- Increasing twice-a-year climate credits for low income families and making sure increased credits reduce their bills when costs are highest in the summer.
- Creates Low-Cost Public Financing & Ownership of Transmission, reducing ratepayer costs by at least 50%, adding up to tens of billions in savings, compared to corporate ownership.
- Cutting tens of millions of dollars in costs caused by permitting delays for clean energy projects, ultimately paid by ratepayers.

***Californians should not be stretched to their financial limits in order to keep the lights on.***



## **SB 681 (Wahab)**

Helps tackle the housing crisis by making it easier to build housing across California, advances protections and housing stability measures for renters, helps first time homebuyers achieve the American dream, and kickstarts housing production at all levels. It expands the Surplus Lands Act and the Permit Streamlining Act, which expedites the development of housing units in cities and counties. The bill makes it easier to build affordable housing in regions most impacted by housing shortages, increases housing stability for renters by curbing junk fee practices, and significantly increases the renters tax credit. SB 681 defends homeowners from predatory mortgage debt practices.

### **HOW IT HELPS**

- 64% of low-income California renters are paying over half of their income in rental costs, one unanticipated expense away from homelessness. By more than doubling the renter's tax credit and doubling the state's first time home buyer program, housing stock will become more stable and affordable for millions across California.
- Housing streamlining provisions in this bill will shorten the timelines to build housing by more than six weeks. Delays in building housing are a significant driver in increased construction costs. By reforming timelines, California can save as much as \$1,800 per unit, resulting in more affordable homes for those who need them most.
- Thousands of dollars will be saved by homeowners and renters who are hit with excessive HOA fines per year by allowing them to correct violations before a fee is assessed.
- SB 681 will help lower costs by streamlining the local approval process for the buildout of new neighborhoods and housing developments. It implements protections for existing housing stock through demolition restrictions, and ensures local governments who continually fight housing developments are consistent with state housing law.
- 84% of renters reported paying rental application fees in 2023. Junk fees like these, and other surprise rental fees, can lead to tenants spending hundreds of dollars more per month in excess of what they expected. Slashing junk fees will protect consumers and save renters hundreds on their monthly bills.
- As many as 2.3 million units of new housing can be created by making school districts follow the same rules as other public agencies when selling surplus land. To date, the existing state Surplus Land Act has resulted in 39,908 new housing units, of which 22,252 are affordable to lower income residents.

***Housing costs in California are too damn high and Senate Democrats are fighting hard to bring those costs down by building more housing and protecting consumers every step of the way. Whether you are renting and/or trying to buy your first home, it is no longer acceptable to spend half your income just to have a roof over your head. We know that Californians are feeling squeezed from the rising costs of housing and everything else in their lives, so SB 681 is a critical step forward in fighting back.***



## **SB 638 (Padilla)**

Invests in results-driven programs that build a more vigorous pathway to the middle class. The bill expands and modernizes California's career training programs and creates a pathway to better paying jobs in traditional and emerging industries. The bill establishes a groundbreaking new collaboration between K-12 school districts, community colleges, and local industries to expand strong workforce opportunities across the state, including apprenticeship programs. Specifically, the program will focus on regional needs, including the demands of emerging industries such as information technology, artificial intelligence, healthcare, and the green economy. The legislation will streamline the state's career education system to ensure that all relevant stakeholders—in both education and local business—work together to implement a cohesive, successful workforce strategy for all regions of California that includes necessary supports and services individuals need to enter into quality training programs. SB 638 establishes the foundation for the state to improve its chances of achieving the joint goal of meeting workforce needs and providing opportunities for workers.

### **HOW IT HELPS**

- Establishes a cohesive workforce development/career pathway system statewide that will consolidate and unify our efforts to give Californians better opportunities to attain higher wage jobs.
- Prioritizes and promotes workforce apprenticeship programs that studies routinely show can lead to a 50% increase in annual earnings for participants.
- California employers are desperate for well-trained workers in manufacturing, trades, healthcare, technology, agriculture and many more sectors. Our bill brings together high schools, community colleges, large corporations and local businesses to create specific programs to address this demand, and create greater opportunities for workers.
- We recognize the significant challenges to working families, and this bill is a shot in the arm for our economy, expanding career pathways in local high schools and community colleges, certificate programs, and continuing education programs. Our focus is to increase the earning potential of working families and expand the workforce for California's leading industries and businesses.

***As our economy changes, so does the way we open paths of opportunity for Californians seeking a better quality of life for themselves and their families. We will help people access better jobs and careers that not only help them make ends meet, but also give them a safety net to afford a stronger today, tomorrow and into the future.***