

Senior Services Coalition 2021 California Bill List

Every year SSC tracks – and advocates for – legislative proposals that will help us meet the challenges of aging and live successfully in our communities, now and in the future. Below is a summary of the 2021 bills we’re actively tracking.

Bill #	Author; Co-Authors; Sponsors	Description	SSC Position	Status as of October 11
SB 48	Limon	Would require an annual cognitive health assessment for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are 65 years of age or older to be a Medi-Cal covered benefit if they are otherwise ineligible for a similar assessment as part of an annual wellness visit under the Medicare Program. Requires the Department of Health Care Services to reimburse Medi-Cal providers who conduct the annual cognitive health assessment, if the providers have completed cognitive health assessment training, as specified and approved by DHCS, and conduct the cognitive health assessment using a validated tool recommended by DHCS.	Neutral	Chaptered (signed by the Governor)
SB 56	Durazo; Arambula, et al; Justice In Aging	SB 56 will expand access to Medi-Cal for undocumented older adults.	Support	Held in Assembly Appropriations
SB 107	Weiner; Bauer-Kahan, Wicks, et al; Nourish CA	SB 107 will make it easier for the most vulnerable Californians to access vital food assistance. This urgent and commonsense bill will create a simplified CalFresh application for older adults and people with disabilities and ensure that people can continue to complete applications and other forms by phone, as is currently being allowed during the pandemic. Note: A budget request is being advanced along with this bill.	Support	Incorporated in FY 21/22 Budget (bill did not pass out of its house of origin)
SB 281	Dodd; Disability Rights California, East Bay Innovations	SB 281 would ensure that California’s Community Care Transitions program conforms to federal law by lowering the length of stay requirement from 90 days to 60 days. It extends the sunset until 2030 for CCT services to be used to decompress skilled nursing homes for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, including persons with disabilities who have resided in a skilled nursing facility for less than 60 days. It makes the CCT permanent as a state-funded Medi-Cal benefit if federal funding for Money Follows the Person is terminated.	Support	Held in Assembly Health Committee

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AB 14	Aquilar-Curry et al (including Quirk); (Principal co-author incl. Bauer-Kahan)	AB 14, Internet for All Act of 2021 would prioritize development of broadband infrastructure in the most vulnerable/underserved rural and urban communities by utilizing the California Advanced Services Fund to make community grants to bridge the digital divide. Redefines “underserved” to include inadequate speeds. Authorizes bond funding against future fee income. (Revised to meaningfully include older adults per SSC request.)	Support (prior to August modifications)	Chaptered (many of the elements of AB 14 were moved to a companion bill, SB 4, which was also chaptered)
AB 339	Alex Lee & Cristina Garcia	AB 339 would enhance public participation at state and local levels by ensuring that constituents have opportunities to join and comment at public meetings in-person, via call-in and internet-based options. It establishes standards for timely and accessible posting of agendas and directions on how to join meetings via teleconference. It would expand translation services for major languages spoken by constituents, creating opportunities for non-English-proficient Californians to meaningfully engage in the democratic process.	Support	Vetoed by Governor
AB 368	Bonta	Would establish a two-year Food Prescription Pilot in three counties, including Alameda County, to provide medically supportive food to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have one or more chronic health conditions with a focus on eliminating racial health disparities and reducing food/nutrition insecurity.	Support	Assembly Appropriations (bill did not pass out of its house of origin)
AB 383	Salas	This bill would establish an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator within the California Department of Health Care Services, to be funded by the MSA.	Support	Held in Senate
AB 470	Carrillo; Arambula, Wood, et al; Justice In Aging	AB 470 would eliminate the asset test for Medi-Cal eligibility, making it easier for older adults with limited to no income to enroll in Medi-Cal so they have the health care they need. An important initiative of the California Master Plan for Aging.	Support	Held in Senate Appropriations Committee (now a 2-year bill)
AB 523	Nazarians; CalPACE	Require the Department of Health Care Services to make PACE program COVID-19 flexibilities permanent.	Support	Vetoed by Governor
AB 540	Petrie Norris; CalPACE	Exempt PACE beneficiary from active or passive enrollment in Medi-Cal managed care and ensure PACE is presented as an enrollment option.	Support	Held In Senate Appropriations Committee
AB 695	Arambula; Justice In Aging	Expand HomeSafe program, lower age to 60 for Adult Protective Services (APS), increase funding for APS and HomeSafe so that elders facing homelessness as a result of abuse will have the support they need to stay safely housed.	Support	Funding incorporated in FY 21/22 Budget (Bill Held in Senate Appropriations)

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AB 848	Calderon	Increase Medi-Cal monthly maintenance need for long-term care from \$35 to \$80 per month.	Support	Held in Assembly Appropriations
AB 1083	Nazarians; LeadingAge California	Establish the Housing Plus Services Nursing Pilot Program in five counties.	Support	Held in Assembly Appropriations