CalChamber

Advocacy in Action 2026

CalChamber's Advocacy team brings the voice of its member businesses into the halls of power in Sacramento, ensuring that state leaders fully understand the economic impacts of their decisions.

The results from the 2026 legislative year show a real, measurable return on the investment in an Advocacy membership.

Business Impact Snapshot: $1.135 trillion

The legislation listed below would have created new, unsustainable costs for California employers had it been signed into law. Cost estimates are based on publicly available analyses and include both annual and multi-year estimates.

$731.4 billion	Government-funded health care stopped *(AB 1900)*
$356 billion	Significant expansion of antitrust law amended to remove most damaging components *(AB 1776)*
$31 billion	Strict liability framework for climate damages stopped *(SB 982)*
$4.314 billion	Infeasible mandates on nitrogen fertilizer application stopped *(AB 2447)*
$3.8 billion	Significant tax increase for international businesses delayed *(AB 1790)*
$2.8 billion	Prohibition on using specific internationally recognized mass balance accounting methodologies vetoed *(AB 2253)*
$2.55 billion	Limits on use of automated decision systems (ADS), including by small businesses, stopped *(AB 1018)*
$1.6 billion	Costly workers' compensation changes for public and private hospitals stopped *(SB 632)*
$1.58 billion	New air board authority to regulate facilities stopped *(AB 1777)*
$300 million	Litigation risks for offering discounts stopped (AB 2564)

Litigation Costs Avoided Individual lawsuits allowed under each bill can cost $160,000

- Onerous notice requirement for public and private employers of all sizes held *(AB 1898)* **Cost Driver**
- Broad AI layoff notice mandate narrowed *(SB 951)* **former Cost Driver**
- Restrictions on use of automated decisions systems in employment reduced *(SB 947)* **former Cost Driver**
- Barriers to technology investment and job growth held *(AB 2027)* **Cost Driver**
- Limits on ability to consider criminal history in employment held *(AB 2064)* **Cost Driver**
- Expansion of fair chance liability and restrictions on employment hiring discretion stopped *(AB 2095)* **Cost Driver**

For more information or to join CalChamber, please email *members@calchamber.com*.

calchamber.com/advocacy

Major Victories

Leading the Way to a More Prosperous California

CalChamber is the voice of California businesses of all sizes, expert at promoting pro-jobs policies and advising employers on the practical impact of state laws and regulations in the workplace. We track close to 2,000 legislative proposals each year, speaking up when a bill will hurt employers and the economy, and working to win support for legislation that will help the jobs climate. Policy makers listen to CalChamber policy advocates, knowing that we represent close to 11,000 member businesses that together employ a fourth of the state's private workforce and reflect the diversity of the California business community.

Supporting our message are the numerous individuals who serve on CalChamber standing committees, member trade associations and nearly 200 affiliated local chambers of commerce.

New permitting barriers for job-creating projects in disadvantaged communities stopped. *(SB 1075)*

Chilling effect on development of digital tools used by California consumers and small businesses prevented. *(SB 1074)*

Exposure to CEQA litigation curtailed. *(AB 2170, AB 2569)* **Cost Driver**

CEQA streamlining bill enacted. *(SB 1370)*

Restrictions hampering advanced manufacturing facilities vetoed. *(SB 954)*

Significant burdens on utilities' use of automated decision systems prevented. *(SB 1011)* **Cost Driver**

Weakening of safeguards protecting ratepayers from higher costs stopped. *(SB 875)* **Cost Driver**

Effort to discourage use of artificial intelligence in health care stopped. *(AB 2575)* **Cost Driver**

Broad, disruptive oversight requirements on health facilities' use of AI tools stopped. *(AB 1979)* **Cost Driver**

Increased health care premiums for California employers and employees prevented. *(AB 298)* **Cost Driver**

Broad prohibition on use of surveillance technology that would have undermined workplace safety narrowed to cover only bathrooms. *(AB 1331)*

New private right of action undermining the 2024 Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) reforms stopped. *(SB 310)* **Cost Driver**

Limits on use of personal information that interfered with businesses' ability to complete transactions and removed consumers' control over their personal information stopped. *(AB 1542)*

Proposal to create a financial incentive for individuals to claim violations under the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) stopped. *(AB 2021)* **Cost Driver**

Proposal undercutting California's status as an AI leader by imposing technically infeasible, unnecessary, and burdensome requirements that disadvantage smaller AI companies and startups stalled. *(AB 412)*

Bill ignoring protections of sensitive personal information in existing law and balance between consumer privacy and the free flow of information stopped. *(SB 435)*

New costly regulatory structure for food additives that will have a significant impact on supply chains and increase food costs stopped. *(AB 2034)* **Cost Driver**

Removal of requirement for California agencies to perform thorough economic analysis of proposed regulations stopped. *(SB 1123)* **Cost Driver**

Bill giving California tribes veto power over water infrastructure projects and broad range of government actions vetoed. *(AB 1881)*

Threat to water management and deliverability vetoed. *(AB 2218)*

New water quality permitting regime with punitive enforcement features stopped. *(SB 601)* **former Cost Driver 2025**

Streamlined permitting for tenant improvements at retail locations signed into law. *(AB 1693)* **Cost Cutter**