



March 22, 2013

A measure that would reduce and restructure the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012 was amended this week. [AB 295](#) (Rudy Salas Jr., D-Bakersfield) would downsize the current \$11.14 billion water bond to \$3 billion to finance public benefits associated with water storage projects only. Farm Bureau has a support position for the current water bond as approved in 2009 and will continue to monitor this and all efforts to impact the size and structure of the water bond.

On March 20, the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee passed [AB 155](#) (Luis Alejo, D-Salinas), which would allow an employee to choose to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of employment records. Current law specifies that employees have the right to inspect records under reasonable conditions and it has been understood that this also includes copying those records. The sponsors of AB 155 believe the bill will address ambiguity in current law as to whether employers are required to provide copies of records. Employer representatives have expressed concern that should AB 155 become law employers will be forced to choose between compliance and allowing former employees who may have been terminated for harassment or physical violence to come to the workplace to review records, creating an unsafe condition for other employees. AB 155 passed the Labor and Employment Committee on a 5-0 vote.

[SB 25](#) by Senate President ProTem Darrell Steinberg is pending floor action in the Senate. The bill would allow a union, certified as a collective bargaining agent before January 1, 2003, to immediately force an employer into mandatory mediation. It would also severely limit any due process an employer may have to appeal a mediator's order to a court and impose the obligation to bargain on any subsequent purchaser of all or part of an employer who had an obligation to bargain under the ALRA.

[AB 343](#) (Jim Patterson, R-Fresno) was amended this week to require any person with photographic or videotaped evidence of animal cruelty to provide a copy to law enforcement within 48 hours. The bill would also encourage the person to provide a copy of such evidence to the owner of the animal or a representative of the owner. Farm Bureau is supporting the bill.