



ANTONIO VAZQUEZ
MEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 17, 2025

To: Ted Gaines, Chairman
Sally J. Lieber, Vice Chair
Mike Schaefer, Board Member, Fourth District
Malia M. Cohen, State Controller

From: Antonio Vazquez, Board Member, Third District

Re: **June 18, 2025, Board Meeting Item 7. – Concepts for Proposal to Establish a Board Legislative Work Group**

Concept Proposal Summary.

Honorable Chairman,

Thank you for your suggestion to establish a Board Legislative Work Group. I believe that the establishment of a Legislative Work Group can fit consistently with the *Board Governance Policy* Article VII. *Role & Powers of the Board*, Section H. *Work Group Policy and Charter*. There are, however, a few procedures that may need to be modified in order to facilitate the frequency and/or regularity of the meetings needed for a Board Legislative Work Group to effectively conduct its business, which I have outlined briefly below. I favor a Work Group because it would consist of all of the Board Members and would allow for the selection a Work Group Chair and Vice Chair on an annual basis.

Necessity and Intent.

As stated in the Board Governance Policy, the Board Members and the Executive Director shall be appropriately open in the way key decisions are made and publicly disclosed, and the *Work Group Policy and Charter* provides a governance structure to be used when the Board determines Work Groups are necessary or useful in addressing specific categories of issues or business. An important category of Board business each year is the investigation, hearing, discussion, and decision-making process regarding legislative concepts, proposals, and past, present or future bills that relate to the Board's jurisdiction. The Board Members are responsible for carefully considering in open session all proposed or pending legislative proposals or bills, legislative/revenue analysis and technical

assistance that are in the public domain, and the Board may vote to support, oppose, remain neutral, or make recommendations as to the language in any bill. This responsibility has proven to involve a significant workload each year, which necessitates the establishment of a dedicated Board Work Group in order to more effectively and efficiently organize and execute that business.

Proposed Work Group Procedures.

To facilitate the ability of the Work Group to address the number of legislative proposals and bills that characterize the typical activity and production of the Legislature each year, the following procedures are suggested, some of which vary from the Charter, but are consistent with the underlying intent:

- (1) The frequency and/or regularity of the meetings for the Legislative Work Group must exceed that of other Board Work Groups in order to mirror the legislative process and workload. As such, the Legislative Work Group should be structured as a “standing committee” that is free to convene at each monthly Board meeting as needed without seeking prior Board approval. Also, only Board Members, not outside stakeholders, would be members of this standing committee or work group. To clearly distinguish this Legislative Work Group from all other work groups, a “dba” (doing business as”) title could be assigned to it. For business purposes, the Legislative Work Group would be named the “Legislative Standing Committee,” though in form and structure it is a work group under the Board Governance Policy.
- (2) While the Work Group Chair or Vice Chair shall submit appropriate legislative items for placement on the Work Group agenda in advance of any meeting, each Board Member of the Standing Committee or Work Group may also submit appropriate legislative agenda items to the Executive Director for consideration by the Work Group Chair.
- (3) Although the Committee or Work Group Chair is responsible for the minutes of each meeting, the Chair may request the Members to waive or postpone the requirement for a full report, if there is a sufficient public record in the minutes.
- (4) The election of the Legislative Committee or Work Group Chair and Vice Chair should be decided by the Board on an annual basis at the appropriate December Board meeting.

Proposed Types of Work Group Agenda Items.

Finally, this Memo suggests that the following potential agenda items be considered to fall within the scope of the Legislative Committee or Work Group:

- (1) Discussion / determination of a legislative plan.
- (2) Discussion and possible consideration of past, present, and future bills.
- (3) Initiation of legislative concepts or proposals.
- (4) Discussion of the need for regulatory implementation or guidance relating to past, pending, or enacted legislation.

(5) Public inquires or other topics related to legislation.

Finally, I want to thank you again, and I look forward to a robust discussion and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio Vazquez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ANTONIO VAZQUEZ, Member
Board of Equalization, 3rd District

Mr. Alexander Fay, Staff Counsel, Office of Member Antonio Vazquez
Mr. Matt Cox, Chief Deputy, Office of Chairman Ted Gaines
Mr. Douglas Winslow, Chief Deputy, Office of Vice Chair Sally J. Lieber
Mr. Cody Petterson, Chief Deputy, Office Member Mike Schaefer
Mr. Hasib Emran, Deputy State Controller
Ms. Yvette Stowers, Executive Director