



THE GOLDEN SLATE

The official newsletter of the California
Agricultural Teachers' Association

Sacramento Scene: What's Next for Ag and CTE in the Legislature

By Matt Patton, CATA Executive Director

As of early September 2025, lawmakers in California are reviewing 2,350 bills that were introduced before the February 21 deadline for the 2025–2026 session ([California Globe](#)).

Legislative activity has entered the final stretch of preparation for floor votes. September 5 marked the last day to amend bills on the floor, and the deadline to pass bills in each house is set for September 12 ([Calif Child Care Resource Network](#)). These are critical procedural milestones to ensure legislation remains eligible for final approval.

Once a bill has successfully passed both legislative chambers, the Governor then has until October 12 to sign or veto the measure; otherwise, it becomes law without a signature ([Calif Child Care Resource Network](#), [ACSA Resource Hub](#)).

CATA is tracking several bills that, if passed, would directly affect agricultural and career technical education. They are listed below in order of how far along they are in the approval process, with those closest to passage at the top. Updates on the progress and the Governor's action will be shared at the Fall Regional CATA meetings.

Bills that would affect **secondary** agricultural education:

- [AB 821](#) (Gipson) would create a permanent option for high school students to use a Career Technical Education (CTE) course to meet a graduation requirement, ensuring lasting access to career-connected learning pathways. Currently, this authorization sunsets every 4-6 years and must be renewed by the legislature. *Status: Passed, will be sent to the Governor.*
- [AB 258](#) (Connolly) would increase the percentage of gross receipts from sales at state-licensed fairs that are deposited into the Fair and Exposition Fund from 0.75% to 2%. This change would provide stronger, long-term support for California's fairgrounds and the communities they serve. *Status: Active, in floor process.*

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

- [AB 401](#) (Muratsuchi). If passed, this bill would modify the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) to a renewable four-year grant that allocates 90% of funds to renewals and 10% to new applicants. Additionally, this bill would establish an annual cost-of-living adjustment to CTEIG. *Status: Active, in committee process.*

Bills that would affect **post-secondary** agricultural education

- [SB 640](#) (Cabaldon) would establish a CSU Direct Admission Program that automatically identifies eligible high school students each year and provides them with admission offers from participating California State University (CSU) campuses. Implementation would begin January 1, 2026. *Status: Active, in floor process.*
- [AB 934](#) (Berman) requires community colleges to identify and notify students who are within 12 semester units of completing a degree or who lack an education plan. This will take effect starting in Fall 2026. *Status: Active, in committee process.*
- [AB 1217](#) (Fong/Muratsuchi) would direct alignment of UC/CSU admissions criteria with K-12 standards and requires the State Superintendent to help districts expand A-G certified courses with input from CTE educators. If passed, CSUs would be required to have a course review and certification process, and UCs would be requested to do the same by January 2028. *Status: Held in submission.*
- [AB 988](#) (Fong), if passed, this legislation would require that dual enrollment courses be certified as UC/CSU A-G requirements, grant both high school and transferable college credit, and appear permanently on student transcripts, with implementation by January 1, 2027. *Status: Held in submission.*

As these bills continue to move through the legislative process, CATA will monitor their progress closely to keep our members informed about developments that directly affect agricultural and career technical education.

