

California lawmakers drop vaccine mandate proposal

BY SUSANNAH LUTHI, VICTORIA COLLIVER | 08/30/2021 08:57 PM EDT

California lawmakers will not introduce a proposal they were weighing that would have represented the nation's strictest statewide vaccine requirement yet.

The measure from Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), Evan Low (D-Campbell) and Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa) would have required all residents to show proof of Covid-19 vaccination to patronize indoor public spaces like hotels, gyms and indoor restaurants, [according to draft legislative language obtained by POLITICO](#) last week.

It also would have compelled workplace vaccine mandates.

Wicks' spokesperson Erin Ivie confirmed the bill will not be introduced in the final stretch of this year's legislative session. In a statement, Wicks vowed to keep working on language to introduce it next year.

"I'm proud of the framework we've created for this bill, and of the collaboration that's taken place among such a diverse group of stakeholders," Wicks said in a statement. "I'm committed to working with my colleagues and key stakeholders to make this the strongest bill possible headed into 2022."

Reaction: Businesses, labor unions and other groups also vowed to help the proposal move forward.

"As an industry that employs millions of Californians, retailers will continue to be part of the effort with the administration, the legislature and in our communities on how we can best move forward on this important public health issue," said Rachel Michelin, president and CEO of the California Retailers Association. "We share Assemblymember Wicks' commitment to moving California past this pandemic."

The gist: Assemblymember Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin), who's running to replace Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in the Sept. 14 recall election, [broke the news over Twitter](#) late Monday afternoon.

News that the proposal was floating came as Newsom faces a recall driven in part by frustrations over his Covid-19 restrictions. While the state's two largest cities, San

Francisco and Los Angeles, have imposed mandates for indoor dining and other congregant settings, the issue of compelling people to get vaccines remains fraught for many Californians and has been used as political fodder by his opponents.

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