Last Friday marked the last day to introduce legislation at the State Capitol, resulting in an onslaught of legislation addressing issues ranging from designating Augustynolophus morrisi as the official state dinosaur to regulating autonomous vehicles. The last day of bill introduction provides us with a good snapshot of what the Legislature’s priorities will be for the year. In addition to legislation on immigration, we also expect to see robust conversations on regulating alcohol and drug treatment centers, classifying additional crimes as violent, ensuring that marijuana edibles are not appealing to children, and expanding affordable housing opportunities.

Our Legislative Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting February 28th in Emeryville PD to review and take preliminary positions on the many bills introduced that impact law enforcement. Those positions will then be posted to the Legislative Report page of our website.

While we are looking forward to a dynamic year at the Capitol, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a legislative change from last year. SBX2-7 passed in an extraordinary session last year and raised the legal age for tobacco consumption from 18 to 21. By going through the extraordinary session, the bill was not heard by policy committees.

In addition to raising the legal age for tobacco consumption, SBX2-7 repealed the original Penal Code Section 308(b) which imposed a $75 fine and 30 hours of community service on a minor who purchased, received or possessed tobacco and replaced it with a series of fines against individuals who sell tobacco to an individual under the age of 21.

**Original PC 308(b):** Every person under the age of 18-21 years of age who purchases, receives, or possesses any tobacco, cigarette, or cigarette papers, or any other preparation of tobacco, or any other instrument or paraphernalia that is designed for the smoking of tobacco, products prepared from tobacco, or any controlled substance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of seventy-five dollars ($75) or 30 hours of community service work.

**New PC 308:** (i) Every person, firm, or corporation that knowingly or under circumstances in which it has knowledge, or should otherwise have grounds for knowledge, sells, gives, or in any way furnishes to another person who is under 21 years of age any tobacco, cigarette, or cigarette papers, or blunt wraps, or any other preparation of tobacco, or any other instrument or paraphernalia that is designed for the smoking or ingestion of tobacco, products prepared from tobacco, or any controlled substance, is subject to either a criminal action for a misdemeanor or to a civil action brought by a city attorney, a county counsel, or a district attorney, punishable by a fine of two hundred dollars ($200) for the first offense, five hundred dollars ($500) for the second offense, and one thousand dollars ($1,000) for the third offense.

As always, if you have any questions on past or current legislation, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you!