

2025-26 SESSION

**SENATE
THIRD READING PACKET**

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026



OFFICE OF SENATE FLOOR ANALYSES
651-4171

SENATE THIRD READING PACKET

Attached are analyses of bills on the Daily File for Monday, May 11, 2026.

<u>Note</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>
	SB 922	Laird	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 929	Jones	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 932	Hurtado	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 950	Weber Pierson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 952	Laird	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 971	Choi	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 983	Weber Pierson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 992	Niello	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 993	Ochoa Bogh	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 997	Caballero	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1007	Menjivar	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1048	Becker	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1088	Blakespear	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1090	Pérez	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1094	Weber Pierson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1106	Cabaldon	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1112	Archuleta	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1115	Grove	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1117	Cervantes	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1143	Caballero	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1154	Reyes	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1172	Hurtado	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1173	Caballero	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1177	Cortese	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1193	Wahab	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1211	Gonzalez	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1223	Padilla	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1228	Rubio	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1229	Allen	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1242	Choi	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1244	Allen	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
RA	SB 1256	Jones	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1288	Laird	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1292	Richardson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1296	Durazo	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1306	Cortese	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1307	Jones	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1311	Wahab	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1312	Richardson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1315	Cabaldon	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1344	Cabaldon	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1354	Archuleta	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1361	Durazo	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1364	Menjivar	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1367	Cervantes	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1369	Reyes	Senate Bills - Third Reading File

+ ADDS

RA Revised Analysis

* Analysis pending

<u>Note</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Location</u>
	SB 1370	Stern	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1371	Durazo	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1374	Niello	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1381	Cervantes	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1383	Arreguín	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1398	Rubio	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1400	Arreguín	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1408	Arreguín	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1417	Pérez	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SB 1430	Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 112	Grove	Unfinished Business
	SCR 113	Grove	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 116	Alvarado-Gil	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 129	Cortese	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 142	Becker	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 145	Weber Pierson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 148	Padilla	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 151	Umberg	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 156	Dahle	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 163	Ochoa Bogh	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 166	Choi	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 168	Jones	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 169	Gonzalez	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SCR 170	Grayson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SJR 7	Cervantes	Unfinished Business
	SJR 13	Padilla	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 67	Blakespear	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 94	Becker	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 95	Niello	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 97	Wahab	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 102	Richardson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 105	McNerney	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 110	Grove	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 143	Pacheco	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 149	Hart	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 158	Solache	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 178	Flora	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File

+ ADDS

RA Revised Analysis

* Analysis pending

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 922
Author: Laird (D), et al.
Amended: 3/11/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 3/18/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SUBJECT: Vehicles: local agency charges: use of streets or highways

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill allows local agencies to impose taxes, permit fees, or other charges for the privilege of using its streets or highways provided they are not based on weight to recover costs for street repair and public services.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Grants local agencies the authority to impose various fees, charges, and taxes to pay for public services.
- 2) Prohibits local agencies from imposing taxes, permit fees, or other charges for the privilege of using its streets or highways, other than a permit fee for particularly large loads, after December 31, 1990, unless the local agency had imposed the fee prior to June 1, 1989.

This bill:

- 1) States that fees, charges, or surcharges for local agencies to recover costs of street maintenance, repair, and other costs to provide public services do not count as a tax, permit fee, or other charge for the privilege of using its streets or highways.
- 2) Allows local agencies to impose a fee, charge, or surcharge described above.

- 3) Allows local agencies to impose taxes, permit fees, or other charges for the privilege of using its streets or highways, provided they are not based on weight.

Background

Local taxes, fees, and charges. Prior to 1978, local agencies could enact taxes by ordinance. Proposition 13 (1978) amended the Constitution to require a 2/3 vote of the electorate to enact a local special tax. Proposition 62 (1986) prohibited local agencies from imposing general taxes without majority approval of local voters, and clarified the 2/3 vote necessary to impose special taxes. Proposition 218 (1996) extended those vote thresholds to charter cities and required local agencies to obtain voter approval to levy new assessments, fees, and taxes, which was subsequently limited by Proposition 26 (2010). Local agencies impose taxes, fees, and charges to finance a variety of public services. For example, state law requires local agencies to provide solid waste handling services, or contract with another local agency or solid waste enterprise. If the local agency provides the service, they charge customers directly. Most jurisdictions in the state operate with some form of “franchise,” or contract, that limits solid waste hauling within the jurisdiction to one or more specified companies. Under these agreements, the local agency charges the franchisee for the benefit of operating within the public right-of-way. The franchisee then charges customers for providing waste hauling services. Many local agencies include the costs to cover the wear and tear on the roads from the heavy waste hauling trucks in their fees. A typical car weighs roughly 4,400 pounds, while a loaded garbage truck can weigh as much as 60,000 pounds.

Weight fees. California collects fees based on weight from commercial vehicles to finance transportation projects, which generates over \$1 billion annually. In 1989, the Legislature passed Senate Constitutional Amendment 1, which became Proposition 111 on the June 1990 ballot. Proposition 111, along with its implementing legislation (AB 471, Katz, Chapter 1337, Statutes of 1989) increased weight fees. Along with these measures, the Legislature passed SB 286 (Campbell), which, when Proposition 111 passed, prohibited local agencies from imposing taxes, permit fees, or other charges for the privilege of using its streets or highways, other than a permit fee for particularly large loads, after December 31, 1990, unless the local agency had imposed the fee prior to June 1, 1989. The Legislature intended for this measure to assuage concerns that local agencies would follow suit and increase local fees, charges, or taxes for the privilege of using their roads.

Rogers v. Redlands. In 2025, a resident of Redlands, a city of over 70,000 residents in San Bernardino County, sued the city alleging that the portion of their waste hauling fees used to repair road damage from garbage trucks constituted a charge for the privilege of using the city's roads, violating SB 286's prohibition on these charges. In *Rogers v. Redlands* 112 Cal. App. 5th 667, the California Court of Appeals affirmed the Superior Court of San Bernardino's decision that agreed with the resident and required Redlands to stop factoring road repair into their waste hauling fees. The California Supreme Court denied the opportunity to review the case.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, "Senate Bill 922 affirms the local agency authority to collect service-related fees from public service operations, such as waste hauling, to recover street maintenance and repair costs. While local agencies have historically integrated these infrastructure costs into utility rates or franchise agreements, a 2025 court interpretation of existing law challenged this practice. SB 922 clarifies the statute to restore regulatory certainty, ensuring local agencies will continue to have funding for the repair of pavement deterioration caused by heavy-duty service vehicles."

Getting it right. SB 922 seeks to address two issues. First, it seeks to restore local agencies' ability to include road repair costs in their waste hauling fees, which the *Rogers* decision prohibited. Second, it seeks to limit the prohibition on fees for the privilege of using roads to weight fees so that other charges do not face similar legal challenges to those in *Rogers*. However, making these two changes could lead some local agencies to seek to impose fees, charges, and taxes for the privilege of using their roads—contrary to what may have been the intent of SB 286—merely by avoiding basing those fees on weight. For example, in 2019, the Legislature passed AB 1605 (Ting), which sought to impose a fee to mitigate congestion on and around the 1000 block of Lombard Street in the City and County of San Francisco (known as the "Crooked Street"). However, Governor Newsom vetoed the measure in part because it violated SB 286's prohibition. If SB 922 becomes law, San Francisco could decide to revisit this fee without legislation so long as the fee is not based on weight. The Committee may wish to consider narrowing the types of fees, charges, and taxes that local agencies can impose for the privilege of using its roads.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/18/26)

Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Afl-cio
California Police Chiefs Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
California State Council of Service Employees International Union
Californians Against Waste
City and County of San Francisco
City of Beverly Hills
City of Capitola
City of Fullerton
City of Glendale
City of Goleta
City of Gonzales
City of Grover Beach
City of Hollister
City of Lakewood CA
City of Marina
City of Moreno Valley
City of Oxnard
City of Oxnard Public Works
City of Port Hueneme
City of Rancho Cucamonga
City of Redondo Beach
City of Salinas
City of San Bernardino
City of Santa Paula
City of Scotts Valley
City of Stanton
City of Tulare
City of Upland
County of Madera
County of Monterey
League of California Cities
Recology
Recyclesmart
Republic Services
Rural County Representatives of California
Town of Apple Valley

Town of Truckee
West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/18/26)

California Building Industry Association
California Taxpayers Association

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
3/19/26 16:14:52

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 929
Author: Jones (R)
Introduced: 1/29/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez,
Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Strickland, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: State Energy Resources Conservation and Development
Commission: chair: report to the Legislature

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the chair of the California Energy Commission (CEC) to annually appear before the relevant legislative policy committees to report on specified activities of the CEC.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CEC, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, and specifies the duties of the CEC. Every two years, the Governor must designate a chair and vice chair from the CEC's membership. The CEC must appoint a public adviser every three years to carry out certain public engagement duties. (Public Resources Code §25200 et. seq.)
- 2) Requires the CEC to assess trends in energy consumption and analyze the social, economic, and environmental consequences of these trends. The CEC must establish energy conservation measures, including building and appliance

energy efficiency standards, and recommend additional conservation measures to the Governor and the Legislature. (Public Resources Code §25216)

- 3) Establishes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, and authorizes the CPUC to fix rates and establish rules for public utilities. (Article XII of the California Constitution)
- 4) Requires the CPUC to prepare an annual report on its activities and performance and requires the president of the CPUC to appear annually before the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature to present the report. (Public Utilities Code §§910 and 321.6)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the chair of the CEC to appear annually before the relevant policy committees of the Legislature to report on the CEC's responsibilities, including the following activities:
 - a) Research, development, and demonstration.
 - b) Building and appliance efficiency standards.
 - c) Electricity and natural gas demand forecasts.
 - d) Siting of thermal powerplants.
 - e) Implementation of the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program and energy labeling.
 - f) Transportation fuels and alternative fuel vehicles.
- 2) Requires the CEC's chair to report on the CEC's activities from the prior year and efforts taken to solicit input from Californians in diverse parts of the states.
- 3) Requires the CEC's chair to report on the successes and challenges encountered in carrying out its responsibilities and outreach efforts.

Background

More duties, more oversight? This bill is one of several substantially similar measures passed by this house in recent years aimed at increasing legislative oversight for the CEC. Under existing law, the president of the CPUC must annually appear before the relevant policy committees and submit a report on CPUC activities undertaken in the prior year. This bill would establish a similar

reporting requirement for the Chair of the CEC. The CEC plays a significant role in the state's energy policy and administers multiple programs that impact the duties of other agencies, including the CPUC, the California Air Resources Board and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). CEC's duties have traditionally included the following activities:

- Analyzing state demand and supply for electricity and natural gas;
- Administering the RPS program;
- Environmental review and certification of proposed large thermal power plants;
- Establishment of building and appliance efficiency standards that promote energy conservation;
- Coordination and development of zero-emission vehicle technology and infrastructure; and
- Managing the largest state-level energy research and development program in the nation.

In addition to these longstanding duties, recent legislation has substantially expanded the CEC's responsibilities related to transportation fuel markets, energy reliability, renewable energy development and siting, and electric vehicle (EV) charger reliability. Specifically, new duties assigned to the CEC in recent legislation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Administering a streamlined permitting process for certain large-scale renewable energy projects that opt-in for state-level certification.
- Establishing the Strategic Reliability Reserve to fund sources that enable the shifting or reduction of net peak demand during critical reliability events. The CEC administers two programs that receive funding from the Strategic Reliability Fund: the Demand Side Grid Support and Distributed Electricity Backup Assets programs.
- Establishing the Division of Petroleum Market Oversight and collecting and analyzing petroleum refinery data, monitoring fuel pricing trends, overseeing oil refinery turnaround and maintenance periods, and setting minimum transportation fuel inventory levels for refineries.
- Creating a strategic plan for developing offshore wind resources.
- Setting bidirectional charging requirements on EVs sold in the state and establishing reliability standards for EV chargers.

The CEC, CPUC, and CAISO each play a critical role in forecasting, planning, and addressing energy demands. Increasingly, policies adopted by one of these

agencies will impact the activities of the other energy agencies. For example, the CEC's building and appliance energy efficiency standards may influence utility building decarbonization investments overseen by the CPUC. Greater electrical loads resulting from higher electrification may impact the availability of resources through the CAISO. Renewable siting and RPS targets can impact utility procurements overseen by the CPUC. Despite the inter-relatedness of these energy agencies' actions, existing law only currently requires the CPUC to annually report on its efforts and appear before relevant legislative policy committees. This bill would extend similar reporting obligations to the CEC.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 491 (Laird) of 2025, was substantially similar to this bill. The bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 610 (Laird) of 2024, was substantially similar to this bill when heard by the Senate Energy Utilities and Communications Committee. The bill was subsequently amended into a different subject matter. The bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 733 (Hueso) of 2022, as passed by the Senate Energy Utilities and Communications Committee, was substantially similar to this bill. The bill was subsequently amended into a different subject matter. The bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 708 (Hueso) of 2019, would have required the CAISO to disclose information relating to tariff or rule of conduct violations by market participants or scheduling coordinators and established other transparency requirements. The bill also would have required the CAISO's Chief Executive Officer to appear annually before the relevant policy committees of the Legislature to report on the CAISO's operations and state of the grid. The bill died in the Assembly.

SB 497 (Bradford) of 2019, was substantially similar to this bill and would have required the CEC to appear annually before the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature to report on specified activities. The bill died in the Assembly.

SB 376 (Bradford) of 2017, was substantially similar to this bill and would have required the CEC to appear annually before the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature to report on specified activities. The bill died in the Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

The authority and responsibility of the California Energy Commission have expanded significantly, yet its oversight by the Legislature has not appropriately kept up with that growth. The Commission has adopted and is considering policies with substantial cost implications for Californians along with its implementation of impactful policies enacted by the Legislature. These actions have direct impacts on housing affordability, energy costs, and the overall cost of living in California.

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4/28/26 16:33:32

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 932
Author: Hurtado (D)
Amended: 3/16/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SUBJECT: Civil proceedings: real party in interest

SOURCE: Conference of California Bar Associations

DIGEST: This bill requires the assignee of rights in a legal proceeding to identify the assignor of the rights and the original real party in interest in the proceeding in the title of the case on the first document that the assignee files in the proceeding.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that a right arising out of an obligation is the property of the person to whom it is due, and may be transferred to another person as such. (Civil (Civ.) Code, § 1458.)
- 2) Provides that every action must be prosecuted in the name of the real party in interest in the action, except as otherwise provided by statute. (Code of Civ. Procedure (Proc.), § 367.)
- 3) Establishes, as an exception to 2), a procedure by which a person who is a participant in the state address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, child abduction, and elder or dependent adult abuse may proceed in a civil action using a pseudonym. (Code Civ. Proc., § 367.3.)

- 4) Provides that, in the case of an assignment of a thing in action, the assignment by the assignee is without prejudice to any set-off, or other defense existing at the time of, or before, notice of the assignment, except for specified cases involving a negotiable promissory note or bill of exchange. (Code Civ. Proc., § 368.)
- 5) Provides that an action or proceeding does not abate by the transfer of an interest in the action or proceeding or by any other transfer of an interest, and that when such an interest is transferred, the action or proceeding may be continued in the name of the original party, or the court may allow the person to whom the transfer is made to be substituted in the action or proceeding. (Code Civ. Proc., § 368.5.)

This bill requires an assignee who has been assigned rights in a proceeding by an assignor who is the original party in interest in the proceeding to identify the assignor and original party in interest in the title of the case on the first document the assignee files in the proceeding.

Comments

California law treats the right to pursue a civil action in court like property. This means that the right to file a case can be transferred, or “assigned,” to another person or entity. When a person assigns their case rights, the assignee can pursue the case exactly as the original party would have done—they can assert the same claims, make the same arguments, and, if they prevail, obtain the same recovery. Under current law, when an original real party in interest assigns their case rights to another person, the original real party in interest’s name does not need to be identified in the case caption, even though their rights are the ones being asserted in the proceeding. While the assignor will be identified over the course of the case, leaving the real party in interest off of the caption means they will not be listed as a party on the docket, making it significantly more difficult for journalists or other interested parties to discover that the assignor is involved in a case. According to the author and sponsors, some individuals deliberately assign claims to third parties, or corporate entities that they wholly control, to avoid public scrutiny of their cases.

This bill requires the original real party in interest to be listed in the case caption when an assignee first files a document in the case, thereby ensuring that the original real party in interest is listed on the docket.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/25/26)

Conference of California Bar Associations (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/25/26)

Utility Wildfire Survivor Coalition

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Conference of California Bar Associations:

This change is needed to ensure that the real party-in-interest is properly identified, and to bring transparency to the sphere of assignments. Search engines and public court records typically capture only the names listed in the case caption. When an assignee files a lawsuit without identifying the assignor in the case title, the original party transferring the legal claim remains effectively hidden from the public, creditors, government agencies, and injured parties. This lack of transparency can be exploited to conceal financial recoveries. Assignors can route claims through shell companies, often formed in states that allow anonymous ownership, allowing them to collect money indirectly without clear public visibility. As a result, this structure can make it easier to hide assets and avoid paying money that is legally owed to victims, creditors, or government agencies, undermining accountability and enforcement.

Identifying the assignor would not be a new or unusual concept, as similar disclosure requirements already exist for plaintiffs suing in a representative capacity, such as guardians ad litem or trustees. This approach is consistent with Section 367 of the same Code (namely the Code of Civil Procedure), which provides that every action must be prosecuted in the name of the real party in interest unless otherwise specified by statute. SB 932 is seeking to add a layer of transparency to clearly identify the real party in interest within civil proceedings.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the Utility Wildfire Survivor Coalition:

We are in opposition to SB 932 given that it provides for inequitable disclosure that may work against the public interest particularly within complex civil litigation. The proposed bill fails to address critical gaps in transparency and financial conflict disclosure.

While the bill is well intentioned and appears to take an important step toward transparency by requiring disclosures for the “original real party in interest,” it is incomplete and therefore insufficient to address the realities of modern complex litigation, particularly mass tort, coordinated or consolidated proceedings involving thousands of plaintiffs and overlapping legal representation

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
3/25/26 16:17:24

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 950
Author: Weber Pierson (D), et al.
Amended: 4/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/15/26

AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Padilla, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar, Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/27/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SUBJECT: Health care coverage: dementia

SOURCE: Alzheimer's Association

DIGEST: This bill requires health plans and insurers to cover all medically necessary treatments or medications, as determined by a health care provider, that are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease or other related dementia. Prohibits health plans and insurers from imposing step therapy protocols when one or more medications are approved by the FDA, unless a plan or insurer has covered at least one anti-amyloid therapy without step therapy.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to regulate health plans under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 (Knox-Keene Act) and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to regulate health insurers under the Insurance Code. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1340, et seq. and Insurance Code (INS) §106, et seq.]

- 2) Establishes a requirement, under federal regulations, that health plans and insurers have a process for review, upon request, of a decision that a drug is not covered by a plan. Requires notification of the determination within 72 hours of the request, or 24 hours based on exigent circumstances. Requires health plans and insurers to have a process for external review of denials of a standard exception, or for an expedited exception. [45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §156.122]
- 3) Permits health plans and insurers to require step therapy and prior authorization and defines step therapy as a type of protocol that specifies the sequence in which different prescription drugs for a given medical condition that are medically appropriate for a particular patient are to be prescribed. Includes utilization review organizations that perform utilization review or utilization management functions. [HSC §1342.71 and §1367.206, Title 28 California Code of Regulations (CCR) §1300.67.205, and INS §10123.193 and §10123.201]
- 4) Requires a health plan contract that provides coverage for outpatient prescription drugs to cover medically necessary prescription drugs, including nonformulary drugs determined to be medically necessary consistent with the Knox-Keene Act. Excludes specified drugs such as drugs for cosmetic purposes and indicates drugs for mental performance are not excluded when they are used to treat diagnosed mental illness or medical conditions affecting memory, including, but not limited to treatment of the conditions or symptoms of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. [HSC §1342.71, Title 28, CCR §1300.67.24 and INS §10123.193]

This bill:

- 1) Requires a health plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, to include coverage for all medically necessary treatments or medications, as determined by a health care provider, that are approved by the FDA for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease or other related dementia. Indicates medically necessary treatments or medications include, but are not limited to, those that reduce clinical decline.
- 2) Indicates medically necessary treatments or medications include those administered through a medical benefit, an outpatient prescription drug benefit to the extent the plan contract or policy covers outpatient prescription drugs, or both.

- 3) Indicates coverage for all medically necessary treatments or medications does not require a plan contract or policy to cover drugs or treatments that are pharmaceutically equivalent drug products if the FDA approves more than one medication or treatment that are pharmaceutically equivalent drug products, unless otherwise required by law.
- 4) Prohibits a health plan or health insurer from imposing step therapy protocols as a prerequisite to authorizing coverage of medically necessary treatments or medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, except as provided in 5) below. Prohibits step therapy for both self-administered drugs and physician-administered drugs, except as provided in 5) below.
- 5) Permits a health plan or health insurer to cover only one anti-amyloid therapy (disease modifying medication) without step therapy if the FDA has approved one or more types of treatment for Alzheimer's disease or other medical conditions affecting memory.
- 6) Permits a health plan or insurer to apply utilization management, including prior authorization, to determine medical necessity for the treatment of Alzheimer's or other medical conditions affecting memory, if appropriateness and medical necessity determinations are made in the same manner as treatment of any other illness, condition, or disorder covered by the plan contract or insurance policy.
- 7) Prohibits coverage criteria for FDA-approved treatments from being more restrictive than the FDA-approved indications for those treatments.
- 8) Requires health plan and insurer authorization to be considered an exigent circumstance, consistent with existing law.
- 9) Exempts a specialized health plan or insurer that covers only dental, vision, or Medicare supplement contracts or policies, Medi-Cal managed care plan contracts with Department of Health Care Services, as specified, accident-only, specified disease, or hospital indemnity policies.

Comments

According to the author of this bill: Alzheimer's disease, while often thought of as a condition of aging, reflects broader disparities in our public health system. Californian women, lower-income Californians, and Californians of color face disproportionately elevated risks, higher diagnosis rates, and poorer outcomes once

living with the disease. This devastating diagnosis is life- and community-changing. As Alzheimer's progresses, individuals lose independence and the memories that connect them to their loved ones. Families often sacrifice their livelihoods to become caregivers while navigating a complex health system. During one of the most difficult times in their lives, California cannot allow barriers to delay or prevent access to appropriate treatment. Today, FDA-approved therapies offer new hope by slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease in its early stages. Removing the plaque responsible for progression can preserve precious time, memories, and quality of life. But, because they are only effective early in the disease, any delays can take away the opportunity to receive this treatment altogether. As a state, we must ensure timely access to these treatments and alleviate pressure from our families and healthcare system. Families deserve more time and support when navigating Alzheimer's.

Background *California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) report.*

Background on Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, irreversible neurologic condition that damages and destroys neurons in the brain, and as the disease progresses, memory, language, and cognitive processing challenges are often the first symptoms to emerge. Patients may live up to ten years or longer after diagnosis. There is no cure or treatment to reverse the disease. In 2020, for California there were an estimated 719,700 adults aged 65+ living with Alzheimer's, 547,629 of them were over 75 years old. In 2022, 17,363 people in California died from Alzheimer's disease. For people with early-onset Alzheimer's disease (occurring in people ages 34 to 64) the estimated prevalence in the U.S. is 31.8 people out of 100,000, or 40,326 people. Risk increases with age, with the highest risk for patients ages 85+. Women and people who are African American, Latino and Hispanic are at higher risk. People who are African American, Latino, and Hispanic are more likely to experience delays in receiving a diagnosis of dementia than white people. Barriers to receiving a diagnosis for Alzheimer's disease and accessing disease-modifying medications are substantial and may be attributed in part to the limited supply of treating clinicians who have experience prescribing the disease-modifying medications. Additionally, eligibility to receive disease-modifying medications is narrow, requires special testing that may be challenging to access, and may only be available in specialized facilities that treat a limited number of patients each year.

Coverage impacts and enrollees covered. According to CHBRP, of the 22.8 million enrolled in state-regulated health insurance, this bill would impact 13.8 million, as Medi-Cal managed care plans are exempt from this bill. Another 15 million Californians would not be covered because they are either uninsured, or

have coverage that is not state regulated, such as Medicare or other federally regulated employer coverage. No enrollees have fully compliant coverage, however 88% of enrollees have coverage for disease-modifying medication under their medical benefit and 93% of enrollees have coverage of three out nine medications for treatment of symptoms.

Medi-Cal and Medicare. Medi-Cal Rx provides coverage for some medications to treat Alzheimer's and related dementia, and Medi-Cal managed care plans also provide coverage for the two currently available anti-amyloid medications. Medicare also covers both anti-amyloid medications under the Medicare Part B benefit. Cost sharing applies depending upon type of Medicare coverage (traditional Medicare or Medicare Advantage). Medicare Part D plans must cover at least two drugs used to treat Alzheimer's symptoms.

Medical effectiveness. Evidence for medications to treat symptoms. Medications used to treat symptoms of Alzheimer's disease demonstrate generally small and inconsistent effects across medications, severity of disease, and outcomes.

Treatment to modify disease. Disease-modifying medications are only available for patients who meet certain clinical criteria. Those criteria include having mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, and a confirmed presence of amyloid pathology (such as through positron emission tomography [PET] brain scan, lumbar puncture, or blood test). Additionally, patients who are unable to safely undergo MRI, or those with certain pre-existing medical conditions may be considered ineligible for these treatments. Enrollees can use medications to treat symptoms and disease-modifying medications concurrently. There is no duration limit for how long enrollees can take the medications to treat symptoms. The disease-modifying medications (anti-amyloids) are intravenous infusions that are usually administered for around 18 months, with the option to extend using a subcutaneous version for one of the medications. Periodic MRIs are required prior to, during, and after the conclusion of treatment for safety monitoring.

Evidence for disease-modifying medications. There is strong evidence that disease-modifying medications are effective at reducing or clearing amyloid plaque and demonstrate robust and consistent effects on amyloid biomarkers. There is some evidence that disease modifying medications are effective at slowing cognitive decline, functional decline, and combined measures of cognitive and functional decline by a small amount. However, effect sizes were generally modest, and most findings did not meet thresholds for clinical meaningfulness. There is some evidence that disease-modifying medications are associated with increased risk of

harm. All studies consistently demonstrated higher rates of amyloid-related imaging abnormalities and hemorrhage, including microhemorrhages and superficial siderosis, among treated participants, in initial treatment period. Most events were asymptomatic and detected through imaging, although symptomatic cases occurred in a smaller proportion of participants. Mortality rates were low and similar to placebo groups, with no clear evidence of increased mortality risk. Other adverse events, such as infusion-related reactions, were common and manageable but led to discontinuation in a subset of participants. Some reactions, such as intracerebral hemorrhage, have the potential to result in severe disability or death.

Health improvement. There is not enough research to determine whether amyloid plaque reduction improves health outcomes. Findings suggest that amyloid reduction is associated with a statistically significant but small improvement in cognitive and combined measure outcomes, but the small effect sizes did not meet the threshold for minimum clinically important differences.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, DMHC anticipates minor and absorbable costs for state administration (Managed Care Fund). CDI estimates costs of \$11,000 in 2026-27 and \$23,000 in 2027-28 for state administration (Insurance Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

Alzheimer's Association (source)
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Alliance for Patient Access
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
Alzheimer's Orange County
Alzheimer's San Diego
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
Association of California Healthcare Districts
Biocom California
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Assisted Living Association
California Black Health Network
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Coalition on Family Caregiving
California Life Sciences
California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association

California PACE Association
Family Caregiver Alliance
LeadingAge California
Multipurpose Senior Services Program Site Association
Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc.
One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
California Association of Health Plans

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill's sponsor, the Alzheimer's Association, writes that "this legislation expedites access for monoclonal antibody therapies that target amyloid plaque buildup in the brain to reduce cognitive decline. These are among the first disease modifying treatments to become available for Alzheimer's disease. The advent of these treatments along with blood-based biomarker testing and new research on lifestyle interventions' efficacy staving off cognitive decline have encouraged early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Perspectives have changed because these developments provide proactive measures to manage cognitive decline for individuals contending with a diagnosis. Presently, these therapies are only available for those in the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, making access crucial."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) and the Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies (ACLHIC) indicate that the demonstrated effectiveness of anti-amyloids has not been clearly substantiated, and they reference CHBRP statements that there is not enough research to determine whether amyloid plaque reduction improves health outcomes and that the small effect sizes did not meet the threshold for minimum clinically important differences. They are also concerned that this bill will accelerate utilization of these drugs before their value is proven and the infrastructure for treatment is available. Regarding the step therapy requirement, CAHP and ACLHIC are concerned that it further grants immediate access to a drug that has not been proven to improve health outcomes, which is a concern because an individual course of treatment is between \$26,500 - \$32,000.

Prepared by: Teri Boughton / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
4/29/26 16:22:15

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 952
Author: Laird (D)
Amended: 3/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 17-0, 4/13/26

AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Caballero, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Strickland, Wahab

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: State Water Project: renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources

SOURCE: State Water Contractors

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the State Water Project (SWP), beginning on January 1, 2036, to apply excess procurement of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year to any subsequent year's obligation.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes it is the policy of the state that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2035, 95% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2040, 100% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045, and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2035, including the SWP. (Public Utilities Code §454.53)

- 2) Requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to procure eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources to satisfy those obligations imposed on the State Water Resources Development System, commonly known as the SWP, pursuant to that policy. Requires DWR, in conducting procurement, to consider specified factors and requires that all resources procured be used first to meet the DWR's own electricity needs. (Water Code §80400)
- 3) Designates the California Air Resources Board (CARB), via the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases (GHGs). Requires CARB to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving reductions in GHG emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every five years. Requires CARB to conduct a series of public workshops to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the plan. (Health and Safety Code §38561)

This bill:

- 1) Defines “excess procurement of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources” to mean procurement of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year that exceed 100% of the annual retail sales in the same year for the DWR and State Water Resources Development System and for which all environmental and renewable attributes associated with the procurement are retired and not transferred or resold.
- 2) Requires the DWR, in conducting procurement, to consider portfolio diversity, resource type, location, and hours of typical peak operation.
- 3) Authorizes, on and after January 1, 2036, excess procurement, as defined, of eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources in one year to be applied to any subsequent year's obligation to meet the policy of the state that the SWP meet 100% of electricity procured by December 31, 2035, with eligible renewable energy and zero-carbon energy resources.

Background

SB 100 (De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018). SB 100 established the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2017 which increases the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement from 50% by 2030 to 60% and created the policy of

planning to meet all of the state's retail electricity supply with a mix of RPS-eligible and zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2045, for a total of 100% clean energy. SB 100 also required CARB, California Energy Commission (CEC), and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to issue a joint report by January 1, 2021, and at least every four years, that describes technologies, forecasts, affordability, and system and local reliability. The report is required to include an evaluation of costs and benefits to customer rate impacts, as well as barriers to achieving the SB 100 policy. The first Joint Agency report was issued in January 2021 and identified the SWP as the largest consumer of electricity in the state (representing roughly 2% of the state's load).

SB 1020 (Laird, Chapter 361, Statutes of 2022) clean energy goals. SB 1020 revised state policy to include interim targets to reach SB 100 goals, specifically to provide that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2035, and 95% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2040. SB 1020 also required each state agency to ensure that zero-carbon resources and eligible renewable energy resources supply 100% of electricity procured to serve their agency by December 31, 2035. SB 1020 applied the interim targets to the SWP.

State Water Project (SWP). The SWP, operated by the DWR, is both a major producer and consumer of electricity. As the largest single consumer of electricity in California, the SWP pump load ranges from six million megawatt hours (MWh) to 9.5 million MWh depending on the type of water year (dry, average, wet). The electricity is used to operate the SWP pumping plants, which are needed to deliver water throughout the state. According to their website: DWR has been proactively responding to the evolving power market by reducing reliance on fossil fuel energy resources, assisting in maintaining grid reliability, and controlling energy costs for water customers, with 50% of the SWP's power provided by its own emission-free hydroelectric generation. The SWP has a power portfolio consisting of 65% carbon-free resources, increasing to 75% by 2030 and 100% by 2045. With the passage of SB 1020, the goal has been adjusted to achieve 100% carbon-free resources by 2035. DWR is adding solar to the system to achieve these goals. SB 1020 required the SWP to enter into new energy procurement contracts to meet the procurement goals. The bill required the renewable energy and zero-carbon resources fulfill the SWP energy use to meet the goals, and secondarily, be available to help other state agencies meet their procurement requirements.

Based on information on its website, the SWP has the following clean energy projects contracted:

- Solar active contracts in operation total 175.5 megawatts (MW) of capacity and 487 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of energy:
 - DWR-SWP has secured Power Purchase Agreements for multiple solar projects. These projects provide renewable energy while helping to reduce GHG emissions. Some examples include:
 - RE Camelot Solar Project (45 MW) in operation since late 2014 in Kern County produces approximately 124,000 MWh of energy annually.
 - Solverde 1 Solar Facility (85 MW) in operation since late 2016 near Lancaster produces approximately 230,000 MWh of energy each year.
 - Pearblossom Solar Facility (9.5 MW), which is adjacent to the Pearblossom Pumping Plant and in operation since late 2016, produces approximately 28,000 MWh of energy annually.
 - Sanborn Solar Project (36 MW) in operation since late 2022 in Kern County produces approximately 105,000 MWh of energy annually.
 - Pastoria Solar Energy Project (100 MW) in Kern County, which became operational this year and produces approximately 280,000 MWh of energy annually.
 - Kyan Solar, LLC (100 MW) in Kern County, which will be operational in 2027 and produce approximately 281,000 MWh of energy annually.
- Hydropower projects active contracts in operation total 168 MW of capacity and 436 GWhs of energy:
 - DWR-SWP has long-standing hydropower agreements to ensure Clean Energy. Some examples include:
 - Pine Flat Hydropower Facility (165 MW) in operation since early 1984 in Fresno County produces approximately 431,000 MWh of energy annually.
 - Hoover Hydropower Facility (2,080 MW) in operation since 1934 in southeast Nevada, where DWR-SWP purchases three MW of capacity, contributes approximately 5,000 MWh of energy annually.
 - Pine Flat U4 Hydropower Facility (4.5 MW) in Fresno County, which will be operational in late 2027 and produce approximately 9,800 MWh annually.

Comments

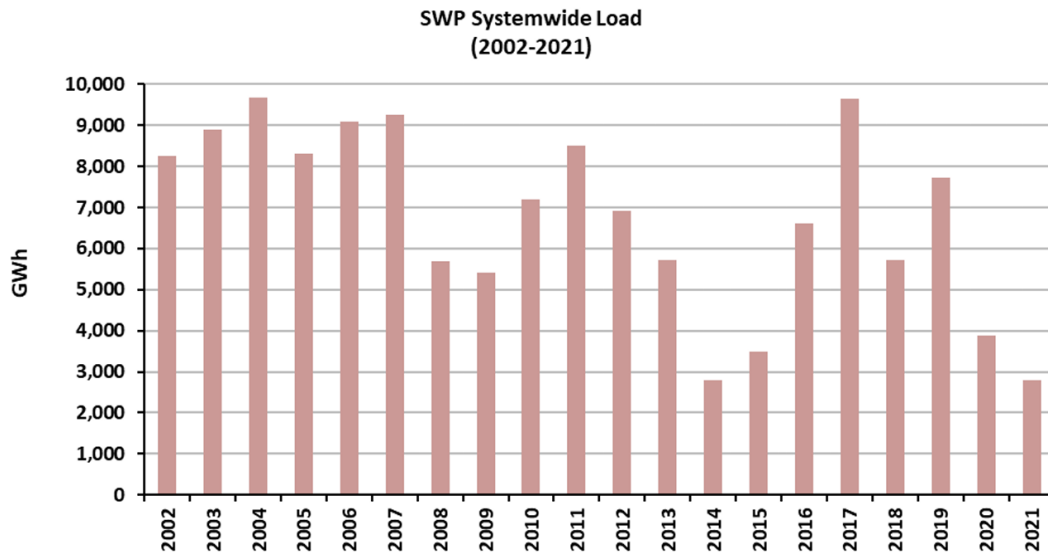
Need for this bill. According to the author:

Senate Bill 952 lowers costs to the State Water Project (SWP) by providing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) procurement flexibility when meeting the state's clean energy goals. These savings directly benefit the public water agencies contracted with DWR, ultimately reducing the costs to SWP ratepayers. The SWP is a water storage and delivery system that provides water to 27 million Californians across the state. To meet the state's energy goals, SWP operations must be fully powered by eligible renewable resources or zero-carbon resources by 2035, as established by SB 1020 which I authored in 2022. SB 952 allows DWR to apply excess renewable energy procurement toward future years, and account for additional factors such as portfolio diversity and resource type.

SB 1020 implementation costs. In requiring the SWP to procure eligible renewable energy and zero-carbon resources to meet the SB 100 goals, DWR estimated increased costs to operate the water conveyance system. DWR estimated costs of up to \$3.3 billion (water ratepayer or other funds) for the SWP to purchase 100% zero carbon electricity by 2035. Of that amount, DWR estimates costs of \$2.6 billion to acquire new renewable and zero-carbon resource supplies, \$100 million to exit existing carbon contracts early, and \$600 million in new Transmission Access Charges. SB 1020 also provided some flexibility to defer the deadline to no later than December 31, 2040 in two cases: (1) authorizing the Governor to adjust the December 31, 2035, deadline, in the event of unexpected and extraordinary circumstances; and (2) authorizes DWR to defer procuring zero-carbon resource quantities equal to the amount of electricity if it determines that full achievement of the obligations would require early termination of an existing contract to procure fossil generation entered before January 1, 2010 and the early termination would result in significant uneconomic costs. Nonetheless, concerns about increased costs have lingered for the State Water Contractors who purchase water from DWR.

Bill attempts to provide flexibility given the SWP's variable energy load. As noted by the author, the SWP has a highly variable energy use – demonstrated in the graphic below – due to varying hydrology. This can make planning for energy needs more reactive than proactive. This bill attempts to provide additional flexibility by allowing excess procurement after 2035 to be banked to meet a future year's compliance obligation. The supporters contend this will help reduce some of

the additional costs from complying with SB 1020’s requirements. The bill requires that for any excess procurement that is banked and used in a future year’s obligation, the corresponding RPS renewable energy credit is retired, consistent with SB 1020 requirements and ensuring elimination of any double-counting of the same eligible renewable energy resource.



Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1020 (Laird, Chapter 361, Statutes of 2022) established interim targets to reach SB 100 clean energy goals and required state agencies to purchase 100% zero carbon electricity by December 31, 2035, to serve their load, including obligations on SWP.

SB 100 (De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) established the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2017 which increases the RPS requirement from 50% by 2030 to 60% and created the policy of planning to meet all of the state's retail electricity supply with a mix of RPS-eligible and zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2045, for a total of 100% clean energy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

State Water Contractors (Source)
Association of California Water Agencies

Western Electrical Contractors Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the State Water Contractors:

The SWP has one of the most dynamic energy needs of any large utility in the state, with those needs ranging on average, 6,500,000 MWh to 9,000,000 MWh power portfolio is dependent on hydrology and thus difficult to plan for in the near and long term. SB 952 would clarify generation attributes DWR may consider for procurement and create certainty for DWR by allowing excess energy procured in low water years be applied to years when SWP energy needs are high. Providing greater certainty into how DWR can achieve this goal will reduce costs to water ratepayers while ensuring achievability.

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
4/28/26 16:33:33

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 971
Author: Choi (R), et al.
Amended: 4/9/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 3/25/26

AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove,
Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/20/26

AYES: Becker, Niello, Laird, Weber Pierson

NO VOTE RECORDED: Pérez

SUBJECT: Healthy Aging Community Partnerships Program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill provides that a local health department, area agency on aging, local school district, or other appropriate county department, may establish community-based programs for older adults designed to promote healthy aging, social engagement, and independent living in collaboration with relevant local entities, including school districts, libraries, faith institutions, and community organizations.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

- 1) Establishes the Older Americans Act, which promotes the well-being of Americans 60 years old and above through services and programs designed to meet their needs. (42 United States Code § 3001 et seq.)
- 2) Establishes the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, which establishes the California Department of Aging (CDA), and sets forth its duties and powers, including, among other things, entering into a contract for the development of

information and materials to educate Californians on the concept of “aging in place.” (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) § 9100 et seq.)

- 3) Requires the Secretary of California Health and Human Services (CalHHS), in coordination with the Director of CDA, to lead the development and implementation of the Master Plan on Aging established pursuant to Executive Order N-14-19. (WIC § 9850)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that a local health department, area agency on aging, local school district, or other appropriate county department, may establish community-based programs for older adults designed to promote healthy aging, social engagement, and independent living in collaboration with relevant local entities, including school districts, libraries, faith institutions, and community organizations.
- 2) Provides that if a local entity establishes a community-based program, the program activities may include, but are not limited to, technology assistance, physical activity, music or arts programming, cultural programming, language learning opportunities, shared meals, and other community-based enrichment activities that support healthy aging and social connection.
- 3) Defines “older adults” as persons 55 years of age or older.
- 4) Provides that these programs are not mandatory for any local entity or department to implement.
- 5) Provides that implementation is subject to the availability of local resources and partnerships.

Comments

According to the author, “California’s older adult population is growing rapidly, yet no designated public system is responsible for coordinating education and prevention services tailored to their real-life needs. SB 971 addresses this gap by establishing a statutory framework that authorizes counties to deliver older adult education. By partnering with community-based organizations, this approach aims to improve health outcomes, promote independence, and enhance quality of life for Californians age 55 and over.”

Aging Californians California is projected to be home to 10.8 million people age 60 and older by 2030. This is nearly twice as many people age 60 and older as there were in 2010. Additionally, by 2030 one out of every four Californians will be older adults. The state is making efforts to meet the needs of this growing population. In January 2021, the Newsom Administration published its Master Plan for Aging, which is intended to be a ten-year blueprint for state government, local government, the private sector, and philanthropy to prepare the state for the coming demographic changes and “continue California’s leadership in aging, disability, and equity.” The five goals of the Master Plan are: housing for all ages and stages; health reimaged; inclusion and equity, not isolation; caregiving that works; and affording aging.

This bill seeks to expand educational opportunities available to older adults. It further provides that program activities may include, but are not limited to, technology assistance, physical activity, music or arts programming, cultural programming, language learning opportunities, shared meals, and other community-based enrichment activities that support healthy aging and social connection. These proposed educational programs could help to achieve the goals in the Master Plan for Aging by reducing older adult isolation as well as spreading awareness of programs and strategies to help older adults stay healthy and active.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) The CDA administers programs serving older adults through contracts with local agencies in 33 locations across the state which provide a wide array of services on a community level to seniors and adults with disabilities. Each county is required to have an AAA to ensure all communities have access to local aging programs and to provide information and services for older adults. Some AAAs serve multiple counties at once. For example, one AAA serves Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity counties. AAA programs often include long-term care ombudsman services, nutrition services, caregiver support and respite, Medicare counseling, legal referrals, transportation, and case management.

Older Adult Education Older adult education is noncredit courses offered to promote lifelong learning. Previously, older adult education programs were overseen by local school districts, with funding provided to those school districts to provide services to older adults. After the Great Recession of 2008, older adult education was consolidated into the community college system. This consolidation effectively eliminated older adult specific education as a distinct public service. California’s older adult education is now done primarily through the California Adult Education Program which offers free, noncredit, flexible courses on topics such as digital literacy and health.

This bill seeks to fill the gap of direct older adult education caused by the post-recession consolidation. It allows local entities to partner with county departments to establish older adult education programs.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1249 (Roth, Chapter 337, Statutes of 2024), among other provisions, requires CDA, by September 30, 2026, to take various actions, including, among others, identify the core programs and services to be provided to older adults and family caregivers, and develop a statewide consumer engagement plan. Requires CDA to develop regulations that address specified topics related to AAA designations.

AB 3207 (Patterson of 2024) would have required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish and administer a toll-free hotline to assist all Californians dealing with scams. The bill would have required CDSS to ensure that the program and its staff are equipped to meet the needs of individuals who are 60 years of age and older. AB 3207 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

SB 228 (Jackson, Chapter 742, Statutes of 2019) requires the Secretary of CalHHS, in coordination with the Director of CDA, to lead the development and implementation of the Master Plan on Aging.

AB 2800 (Granlund, Chapter 1097, Statutes of 1996) amended the Older Californians Act by establishing new programs and making structural changes to service delivery.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 04/22/2026)

LeadingAge California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 04/22/2026)

None received

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
4/22/26 16:11:11

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 983
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Amended: 4/22/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-2, 4/29/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Choi, Seyarto

SUBJECT: San Diego Unified Port District: job order contracting: pilot program

SOURCE: San Diego Unified Port District

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the San Diego Port District to use the Job Order Contracting (JOC) method.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires, via the Local Agency Public Construction Act, local agencies to invite bids for construction projects and award contracts to the lowest responsible bidder,
- 2) Establishes the San Diego Unified Port District for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, development, and regulation of harbor works and improvements for the harbor of San Diego and for the promotion of commerce, navigation, fisheries, and recreation,
- 3) Requires the San Diego Unified Port District to comply with the specific public contracting requirements for port districts,
- 4) Authorize multiple agencies to use JOC, some state and some local, including counties, school districts, community college districts, the California State University system, and Caltrans.

This bill:

- 1) Allows, until January 1, 2037, the Port District to use JOC procurement authority,
- 2) To use this authority, the Port District must:
 - a) Not contract for work that is protected by any collective bargaining agreements;
 - b) Comply with all collective bargaining agreements; and
 - c) Competitively bid and award to bidders providing qualified responsible bids.
- 3) Limits JOC to repair, remodeling, or other repetitive work according to unit prices while prohibiting the use of JOC for longshore and maritime operations,
- 4) No annual contracts may be awarded for any large-scale capital development projects exceeding \$5 million,
- 5) Requires solicitations for a JOC must comply with the following requirements:
 - a) The Port District must prepare a set of solicitation documents for JOC. Documents must include a unit price catalog or other established unit prices;
 - b) An architect, engineer, consultant, or contractor retained by the district to assist in the development of the JOC solicitation documents must not be eligible to bid or participate in the preparation of the JOC bid; and
 - c) The Port District may award multiple JOCs in response to a single JOC solicitation.
- 6) Requires Port District to develop a system for evaluating and awarding JOC bids:
 - a) Port District must prepare a request for bids for JOC based on the solicitation documents and request sealed bids;
 - b) Each bidder must include in its bid one or more adjustment factors to the established unit prices;

- c) Each bidder shall agree to identify any subcontractors to be used;
 - d) Port district must award the JOC, if any, to a bidder that the district determines is qualified and responsive;
 - e) A job order contractor must comply with the district's project labor agreements, as applicable; and
 - f) Port District may award any job order for repair or renovation work with a value equal to or less than \$250,000 to a job order contractor that is also a certified small business enterprise.
- 7) Provides that the maximum total dollar amount that may be awarded under a single JOC shall not exceed \$5 million dollars in the initial contract term of the JOC. No single job order may exceed \$1 million,
- 8) Provides that JOCs may be executed for an initial contract term of no more than 12 months and may be extended or renewed for two subsequent annual terms and a maximum of \$10 million over the subsequent two terms of the contract,
- 9) Prohibits work from being split or separated into smaller job orders for the purpose of evading the cost limitation provisions of this bill,
- a) Except that district may award phased job orders when necessary to comply with environmental regulations, permitting requirements, tidal or seasonal construction windows, or other operational constraints.
- 10) Allows the amounts in the bill to be adjusted annually to reflect the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI),
- 11) Provides that all work bid under JOCs shall comply with the Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act and is subject to all of the penalties and provisions set forth in that Act,
- 12) Requires, if a job order contractor chooses to use a subcontractor, the job order contractor to verify that the subcontractor possesses and maintains the appropriate licenses and credentials required,
- 13) Provides that, if the Port District, after conducting an administrative due process review, determines that there has been a violation of the Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act, including, but not limited to, bid shopping

- by the job order contractor, the Port District may terminate the job order contract, declare the contractor ineligible for future job order contracts for a period of time to be determined by the Port District, or withdraw authorization for the contractor to proceed with awarded work,
- 14) Requires a JOC to set forth in the general conditions of the JOC the party or parties responsible for seeing that existing law governing prevailing wages on public works projects is complied with, as specified.
 - 15) Requires, for purposes of job order contracting, prevailing wages to apply to all work ordered under the JOC regardless of thresholds set forth in existing law governing prevailing wages on public works projects, as specified.
 - 16) Requires the Port District to designate one individual to act as a monitor to inspect job sites for labor compliance violations at the request of the designated labor representative in its project labor agreement,
 - 17) Requires a JOC to be subject to a project labor agreement (PLA) between the district and the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council,
 - 18) Requires, in order to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, the Port District must prepare for each individual job order developed under a JOC an independent cost estimate. The estimate shall be prepared prior to the receipt of any job order contractor's estimate for the work and shall be compared to the job order contractor's estimate to determine the reasonableness of that estimate before issuance of any job order. If the Port District finds the job order contractor's estimate to perform work for a given job order to be unreasonable, not cost effective, or undesirable, the Port District may elect not to issue the job order to the job order contractor, and may, instead, utilize any other available procurement procedures or choose not to move forward with the work,
 - 19) Requires the Port District to submit to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2035, a report on the use of JOC. The report must include:
 - a) A description of the Port District's system for evaluating JOC bids for award of JOCs, including, but not limited to, the criteria used by the Port District to determine a qualified and responsive job order contractor;

- b) A description of each JOC the Port District awarded, and the contractor awarded the contract; and
- c) An assessment of the use of job order contracting under this bill.

Background

Job order contracting (JOC). A JOC is a competitively bid, fixed price, indefinite quantity contract for the performance of minor construction, as well as the renovation, alteration, painting and repair of existing public facilities. A JOC is generally a multi-year contract that includes a base year and multiple “option years,” and is awarded before the awarding agency has identified specific work that it needs the contractor to perform. Instead of bidding each project separately, the agency awards a JOC that identifies specific tasks and covers a range of recurring work, such as roofing, electrical work, plumbing, and painting, across facilities it owns.

A JOC is a fixed price agreement in that it is based upon specified charges contained in a Unit Price Book (UPB), which is prepared by the public agency or by independent commercial sources. The UPB sets forth detailed repair and construction tasks, including task descriptions, specifications, units of measurement, and unit prices for each task (“Unit Price” means the amount paid for a single unit of an item of work). This contracting method is intended to reduce costs and accelerate completion of smaller projects.

The Legislature has authorized multiple agencies to use JOC, some state and some local, including counties, school districts, community college districts, the California State University system, and Caltrans. California counties have had the authority to use JOC since 1983.

San Diego Unified Port District. The San Diego Unified Port District (Port District) was created by the Legislature to manage San Diego Bay and surrounding waterfront land on December 18, 1962. The Port of San Diego is the fourth largest of the 11 ports in California. The Port District includes five member cities – San Diego, Chula Vista, Coronado, National City, and Imperial Beach. The Port District currently oversees two maritime cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, 23 public parks, the Harbor Police Department and the leases of hundreds of tenant and subtenant businesses around San Diego Bay.

Existing law establishes the Port District as the trustee of public lands within San Diego Bay. The Port District was created for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, development and regulation of harbor works and

improvements, including rail and water, for the development, operation, maintenance, control, regulation, and management of the harbor of San Diego upon the tidelands and lands lying under the inland navigable waters of San Diego Bay, and for the promotion of commerce, navigation, fisheries, and recreation. A seven-member Board of Port Commissioners governs the Port District: one commissioner each is appointed by the city councils of Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach and National City, and three commissioners are appointed by the San Diego City Council.

Comments

According to the author, “SB 983 authorizes the Port of San Diego to utilize job-order-contracting (“JOC”) for their repair, remodeling, and repetitive work. The ability to utilize this contracting method will promote efficiency and flexibility in completing necessary maintenance projects.

Currently, when maintenance is needed on the Port’s property, the Port must go out for competitive bidding for each individual project. This can result in major delays and can interrupt Port operations. This bill establishes a pilot program allowing the Port of San Diego to use the JOC procurement method, and sunsets the program in January 2037.”

Scope of work. Ports are unique in the local government world because of their geographic position—they are the interface between seafaring vessels and the land transportation modes that deliver goods to the rest of the state and the country. Ports are also significant infrastructure assets and create significant employment opportunities in the maritime industry. SB 983 allows for the use of JOC for certain repairs and maintenance, as long as they are subject to a PLA, which requires the use of a unionized labor force comprising various construction trades. Crucially, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) does not operate under PLAs, so requiring the use of PLAs means they would not be eligible for this type of work. To protect the scope of work of ILWU, the bill excludes from JOC specified maritime and longshore activities, which means that those activities could not be performed by the construction trades. The Legislature may wish to consider how to balance these competing interests.

Special legislation. Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution prohibits special legislation when a general law can apply. SB 983 contains findings and declarations explaining the need for legislation that applies only to the Port of San Diego because of the unique and special circumstances surrounding the port.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/30/26)

San Diego Unified Port District (Source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/30/29)

Western Electrical Contractors Association

Prepared by: Itzel Vargas / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
5/1/26 13:12:59

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 992
Author: Niello (R)
Introduced: 2/5/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/29/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SUBJECT: County auditors: special districts: annual audit exceptions

SOURCE: California Special Districts Association (Co-Source)
State Association of County Auditors (Co-Source)

DIGEST: This bill increases the annual revenue threshold for special districts to substitute alternative financial oversight mechanisms for an annual audit and makes other changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires county auditors to annually audit each special district's accounts and records.
- 2) Requires special districts to pay for the annual audit.
- 3) Authorizes a special district, by unanimous request of the special district's governing board and with the unanimous approval of the county board of supervisors, to replace the annual audit with:
 - a) A biennial audit;
 - b) A five-year audit if the district's annual budget doesn't exceed an amount set by the county supervisors; or

- c) An audit at a specified interval, as designated by the county auditor, not to exceed five years.
- 4) Authorizes a special district that processes their financial transactions through the county's financial system and has annual revenues below \$150,000 to replace the annual audit with a financial review upon unanimous request of the special district's governing board and with the unanimous approval of the county board of supervisors.
- 5) Authorizes, until January 1, 2027, additional alternatives to the annual audit for special districts that both process their financial transactions through the county's financial system and have annual revenues below \$150,000, as follows:
 - a) Upon unanimous request of the governing board of the special district and with unanimous approval of the board of supervisors, the district may replace the annual audit with an agreed-upon procedures engagement (AUP).
 - b) Upon annual unanimous request of the governing board of the special district and with annual unanimous approval of the board of supervisors, the district may replace the annual audit with an annual financial compilation performed by the county auditor.
- 6) Prohibits a special district from replacing the audit with a financial compilation for more than five consecutive years, at which time the district must undergo an annual audit.
- 7) Requires the special district to pay for any costs incurred by the county auditor in performing a financial compilation or an AUP.
- 8) Authorizes a county auditor, upon receipt of the financial review, AUP, or financial compilation, to appoint an accountant to conduct an audit of the special district, with proper notice to the governing board of the special district and board of supervisors.

This bill:

- 1) Increases the annual revenue threshold to \$250,000.
- 2) Removes the January 1, 2027 sunset date.

Background

Annual audits can be costly. To reduce the burden on smaller special districts, the Legislature has authorized several alternatives to the annual audit. By unanimous request of the special district's governing board and with the unanimous approval of the county board of supervisors, a district may replace the annual audit with: (1) a biennial audit; (2) a five-year audit if the district's annual budget doesn't exceed an amount set by the county supervisors; or (3) an audit at a specified interval, as designated by the county auditor, not to exceed five years.

Types of Financial Oversight. Auditors perform a variety of financial oversight services that differ in the scope, activity, and assurance of financial stability, including:

- *Audit.* An audit is the highest level of financial oversight that a local agency can provide. Its purpose is to provide financial statement users with an opinion by the auditor on whether the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the proper financial reporting framework. The auditor evaluates the internal control system, tests accounting records by examining source documents, and performs other procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from misstatement, error, or fraud.
- *Agreed-upon Procedures Engagement (AUP).* Auditors may also enter into an AUP, where the auditor and the client agree upon specific audit procedures to perform or specific aspects of the agency to review, but stops short of performing all of the procedures required in a full audit. An AUP provides less assurance than a full audit but includes some analyses to assure financial stability.
- *Financial Review.* When performing a financial review, an auditor issues a formal report that includes a conclusion as to whether he or she is aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to meet the accounting principles and practices generally used in an industry. The auditor does not perform any audit procedures, such as assessing fraud risk. Thus, a financial review provides less assurance than an audit and AUP.
- *Financial Compilation.* The objective of a financial compilation is to present the financial information in a standardized format. A financial compilation provides no assurance regarding the financial statements because the auditor is not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided, or express an audit opinion or a review conclusion. Furthermore, unlike other

financial oversight services, an auditor is not required to be independent, although any lack of independence must be disclosed.

Special districts and audits. To reduce the financial burden of audits on special districts, the Legislature authorized alternative financial oversight options. Special districts that both process their financial transactions through the county's financial system and have annual revenues below \$150,000 may use these alternatives. In 2008, the Legislature authorized these districts to replace the annual audit with a financial review upon unanimous request of the special district's governing board and with the unanimous approval of the county board of supervisors (AB 2510, La Malfa, 2008). If the governing board of the district is the county board of supervisors, the district may replace the annual audit with a financial review upon unanimous approval of the board.

In 2016, the Legislature expanded the alternatives to include an AUP or an annual financial compilation (AB 2613, Achadjian). It limited the use of annual financial compilations to five consecutive years, after which the district must complete a full annual audit. The authority for special districts to use these alternative financial oversight methods in lieu of an audit sunsets January 1, 2027.

Comments

According to the author, "SB 992 (Niello) makes permanent an existing law that authorizes a cost-effective procedure of engagement in lieu of an audit so long as the allowance is not granted for more than five years in row. The proposal also modestly increases the threshold to qualify from \$150,000 to \$250,000 to account for inflationary pressures since the threshold was put in place a decade ago. These small changes save critical, limited dollars allowing for a larger share of funding to be directed towards front line services while keeping fiscal guardrails in place."

Oversight. Accurate financial data is necessary to hold special districts accountable. The State Controller and others use this information to compile annual reports and oversee these bodies. The requirement that all local governments conduct an audit serves this purpose. However, the Legislature recognized that audits can burden smaller special districts and therefore authorized alternative options to meet financial oversight and included a sunset to monitor for potential issues. This bill repeals that sunset. Supporters of the measure argue that the alternatives have worked without significant problems over the past ten years and contend that these alternatives allow small districts to direct limited resources towards services for residents. This bill raises questions about whether the Legislature has had enough time to evaluate whether these alternatives maintain

transparency and accountability.

Raising the bar. Ten years ago, the Legislature allowed special districts to use three alternatives in lieu of an audit. According to the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), 552 special districts qualified under the \$150,000 threshold in 2016. This bill increases the threshold by \$100,000, to \$250,000. Adjusted for inflation using Consumer Price Index, the original threshold would be approximately \$215,000. The new threshold slightly exceeds a pure inflationary adjustment, but only 525 districts would qualify at this higher level, because some local agency revenues have grown faster.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/26)

California Special Districts Association (Co-Source)
State Association of County Auditors (Co-Source)
California Association of Recreation & Park Districts
California Policy Center

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/26)

None received

Prepared by: Itzel Vargas / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
5/1/26 13:12:59

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 993
Author: Ochoa Bogh (R)
Amended: 4/8/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Board of Behavioral Sciences: licensees: notices

SOURCE: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees,
AFL-CIO

DIGEST: This bill revises licensure disclosure requirements for Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licensees or registrants, if certain requirements are met.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the BBS to license and regulate Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), Educational Psychologists (LEP), Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC). (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 4980 *et seq.*)
- 2) Defines an MFT and PCC “associate” as an unlicensed person who has earned a master’s or doctoral degree qualifying the individual for licensure, as specified. (BPC § 4980.03(b) 4999.12(f))
- 3) Defines a MFT and PCC “trainee” as an unlicensed person who is currently enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree program that is designed to qualify the person for licensure and who has completed no less than 12 semester or 18

quarter units in any qualifying degree program. (BPC § 4980.03 (c) (4999.12(g))

- 4) Requires a LMFT, LEP, LCSW, and LPCC to display their license in a conspicuous place in the licensee's primary place of practice. (BPC §§ 4980.31, 4989.48, 4996.7, 4999.70)
- 5) Requires a LMFT, LEP, LCSW, and LPCC to provide a written notice to clients prior to initiating psychotherapy services, that informs the client that the BBS receives and reviews complaints, as specified. (BPC §§ 4980.32, 4989.17, 4996.75, 4999.71.

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes an employing entity or agency of a licensee or registrant to exercise discretion, in specific practice settings, whether to include any or all of the following information: the licensee's or registrant's full name as filed with the board, the license or registration number, the type of license or registration and the registration expiration date in the notice required prior to initiating psychotherapy services, if the setting has an established process by which the client may request and obtain sufficient identification information to file a complaint with the board, that process is disclosed to the client as part of the notice and a copy of the notice is preserved as part of the client's records. Requires the licensee or registrant to be responsible, if exercising discretion is utilized, for ensuring the process to request and obtain identification is in place.
- 2) Includes the following specific practice settings: an acute psychiatric hospital, a correctional treatment center, any setting where mental health services are provided to incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of a local, state, or federal correctional authority, including but not limited to, a state prison, county jail, juvenile detention facility, or other correctional setting operated by or under contract with a governmental entity.

Background

Disclosure Requirements. Current law requires a licensee prominently display their license in their primary place of practice when conducting mental health services in person confirming for the patient that they are licensed with the BBS. Licensees or registrants licensed by the BBS are also required to provide a client with written notice prior to initiating mental health services, or as soon as possible, that states that the BBS receives and responds to complaints from consumers about mental

health services rendered and document in a client's record. Due to the rise in telehealth services the requirements to physically display a license outside a traditional office setting became impractical. In response, SB 1024 (Ochoa Bogh, Chapter 160, Statutes of 2024) updated the procedures for licensed professionals regulated by the BBS by requiring that the written notice also includes the licensee's or registrant's full name as filed with the Board, the license and registration number, the type of license or registration, and the expiration date of the license or registration, amongst other provisions. Providing this identifying information to the client receiving telehealth services was a practical solution to create transparency and allow clients to obtain sufficient information to file a complaint, if needed.

As a precautionary measure, this bill seeks to restore previous protections for licensees and registrants who work in high-risk practice settings by allowing employers, based on individual safety concerns, to limit the amount of identifying information that is disclosed to the client, if the practice setting has an established process for the client to obtain said information to file a complaint, the process is disclosed to the client and recorded in the client file.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
(source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: AFSCME is the sponsor of the bill and writes in support, "AFSCME represents Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), and other mental health professionals who provide critical behavioral health services within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Our members work daily in correctional treatment centers and facilities serving incarcerated individuals, delivering essential care in some of the most challenging and high-risk environments in the state. SB 993 addresses a safety concern for these professionals. Recent changes to law requiring mental health providers to disclose detailed personal identifying information, including full name and license details, to patients were well-intentioned in improving transparency, particularly in telehealth settings. However, in correctional and secure psychiatric environments,

these requirements can unintentionally expose therapists to significant risks. Mental health providers working with incarcerated populations often treat individuals with complex behavioral health needs, including those with histories of violence. Requiring routine disclosure of personally identifying information in these settings creates the potential for misuse of that information, placing not only the providers, but also their families, at risk. SB 993 strikes an appropriate and thoughtful balance between transparency and safety...This preserves accountability while mitigating unnecessary risk.”

Prepared by: Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
5/5/26 15:55:40

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 997
Author: Caballero (D)
Introduced: 2/9/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Grove, Stern

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird,
Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SUBJECT: North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency: lien authority

SOURCE: North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to impose civil penalties when enforcing its groundwater sustainability plan and authorizes the agency to file a lien for any unpaid charges or other services upon any real property in the county owned by the person who is liable for the charges.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA),
 - a) Requires all groundwater basins designed as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) or coordinated GSP, except as specified (Water Code (WAT) §10727).
 - b) Authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a GSA for that basin (WAT §10723).

- c) Deems specified agencies created by statute to manage groundwater the exclusive local agencies within their respective statutory boundaries with powers to comply with SGMA. These include, for example:
 - i) Alameda County Water District.
 - ii) Desert Water Agency.
 - iii) Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.
 - iv) North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
 - v) Santa Clara Valley Water District.
 - vi) Willow Creek Groundwater Management Agency.
(WAT §10723).

 - d) Provides that SGMA is in addition to, and not a limitation on, the authority granted to a local agency under any other law and authorizes the local agency to use the local agency's authority under any other law to apply and enforce SGMA (WAT §10726.8).

 - e) Imposes civil liability on a person who extracts groundwater in excess of the amount authorized under a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution (WAT §10732).
- 2) Under the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act (SB 564, Cannella, Chapter 392, Statutes of 2016),
- a) Creates the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency in the Counties of Fresno and Kings.

 - b) Authorizes the North Fork Kings GSA, pursuant to SGMA, to impose fees, including but not limited to, permit fees and fees on groundwater extraction or other regulated activity, to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program.
- 3) Authorizes irrigation districts, county water districts, California water districts, county waterworks districts, water replenishment districts, levee districts, and municipal water districts to file liens, as specified, for taxes or unpaid charges for water or other services, as provided (WAT §§25806, 31701.7, 36729, 55501.1, 60256, 70239, 71637).

This bill:

- 1) Pursuant to SGMA, authorizes the North Fork Kings GSA to impose civil penalties on any person who extracts groundwater in excess of the amount that person is authorized to extract under a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution adopted by the agency.
- 2) Authorizes the amount of unpaid charges for water or other services that remain unpaid to, in the discretion of the North Fork Kings GSA, be secured at any time by filing for record in the office of the county recorder of any county a certificate specifying the amount of the charges and the name and address of the person liable.
- 3) Provide that the amount required to be paid together with any interest and penalties constitutes a lien upon all real property in the county owned by the person or afterwards, and before the lien expired, acquired by that person.

Background

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA was enacted in 2014 to create a statewide requirement for sustainably managing groundwater resources. The objective of SGMA is to ensure the long-term reliability of groundwater resources and connected surface water resources. SGMA provides for the management of groundwater resources by local agencies subject to state oversight and, in the event that actions of local agencies are insufficient, state intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

Under SGMA, a local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin may become a GSA for that basin. A GSA has broad management authority of the groundwater basin or basins under their jurisdiction, including defining the basin's or basins' sustainable yield, limiting groundwater extraction, and imposing fees.

In general, GSAs are authorized to perform any act necessary to carry out the purposes of SGMA, including adopting rules, regulations, and ordinances and developing the GSP. GSAs are also authorized to, among other regulatory authorities, establish groundwater extraction allocations. A person who extracts groundwater in excess of the amount authorized under a rule, regulation, ordinance or regulation adopted by the GSA may be civilly liable for up to \$500 per acre-foot

exacted in excess.

Often, member agencies create GSAs by either forming a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or through a memorandum of agreement or other legal agreement. SGMA provides its authorities are not a limitation on the authority granted to a local agency under any other law and authorizes the local agency to use the local agency's authority under any other law to apply and enforce SGMA. As a JPA, these GSAs have the authority to exercise the powers granted to its member agencies, in addition to the powers described in SGMA itself. Thus, GSAs that have member agencies with powers that are not included in SGMA are able to use those powers to enforce the GSA's groundwater sustainability program.

Many member agencies, such as county water districts, irrigation districts, city water districts, and reclamation districts, have enforcement powers that are not included in SGMA. Specifically, these agencies are authorized to impose a lien on a landowner's property to enforce and collect unpaid charges or fees.

However, some GSAs, such as the North Fork Kings GSA, have been created by statute to manage groundwater within certain boundaries. Those GSAs' authorities are laid out in their enacting statute and those provided for under SGMA.

North Fork Kings GSA. In 2016, SB 564 (Cannella, Chapter 392, Statutes of 2016) established the North Fork Kings GSA and deemed it the exclusive local agency within its statutory boundaries with powers to comply with SGMA. The North Fork Kings GSA enacting statute gave its board the authority to adopt ordinances for the purpose of regulating, conserving, managing, and controlling the use and extraction of groundwater within the agency's territory and the authority to impose fees to fund the cost of its implementing its GSP. The enacting statute did not, however, provide authorization to file liens for unpaid charges.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, "[t]he Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) sets forth a rigorous framework for reaching and maintaining groundwater sustainability in California. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) formed under SGMA are charged with implementing groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) to avoid groundwater overdraft and state intervention. SGMA authorized GSAs to be formed through either joint powers agreements (JPAs) or through special statutes. All GSAs formed in accordance

with SGMA have a minimum enforcement authority provided by the SGMA statute which includes imposing penalties and bringing civil lawsuits.”

“GSAs created through a JPA have additional enforcement authority inherent to all JPAs, which includes lien authority for uncollected fees. GSAs formed under special statute, such as [North Fork GSA] are limited to the minimal enforcement powers under SGMA, which does not explicitly grant the authority to impose liens to collect unpaid fees like other GSAs formed through a JPA. SB 997 is a straightforward district bill that aligns [North Fork Kings GSA]’s enforcement authority with that of the majority of GSAs statewide to ensure the effective implementation of its groundwater sustainability program under SGMA.”

See you in court. According to the author, the North Fork Kings GSA’s only avenue to collect unpaid charges and fees is through a civil action. This, however, can be a lengthy process and expensive. Instead, North Fork Kings GSA is seeking authority to impose a lien for such unpaid charges and fees, an enforcement pathway that is already afforded to many other local agencies such as irrigation districts, county water districts, California water districts, county waterworks districts, water replenishment districts, levee districts, and municipal water districts.

Lien on me. Many of the GSAs that were statutorily created contain similar language to the language found in the North Fork Kings GSA enacting statute and, to the extent their membership also does not have underlying authority to impose liens, may encounter similar enforcement issues.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/26)

North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (source)

American Pistachio Growers

California Farm Bureau Federation

California State Association of Counties

Kings River Conservation District

Kings River Water Association

Rural County Representatives of California

Valley Ag Waer Coalition

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to North Fork Kings GSA, the sponsor of the bill, “SB 997 aligns [North Fork Kings GSA]’s authority with that of other GSAs formed as JPAs statewide to strengthen the agency’s enforcement and fee collection capability and supports the fair and effective implementation of our groundwater sustainability efforts now and into the future. ... SB 997 (Caballero) is a critical tool that will assist [North Fork Kings GSA] in meetings in requirements in its Groundwater Sustainability Plan.”

Prepared by: Genevieve Wong / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
5/1/26 13:13:00

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1007
Author: Menjivar (D)
Introduced: 2/9/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 8-2, 3/17/26

AYES: Arreguín, Ashby, Cabaldon, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson,
Padilla

NOES: Seyarto, Ochoa Bogh

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-1, 4/28/26

AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Wahab, Weber
Pierson

NOES: Alvarado-Gil

NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Stern, Wiener

SUBJECT: Common interest developments: annual reports: assessments:
discipline

SOURCE: Center for California Homeowner Association Law
Consumer Federation of California

DIGEST: This bill 1) adds reporting requirements to a homeowner's association's (HOA) annual budget report; 2) lowers the cap on regular assessment increases from 20% to the previous year's rate plus inflation; and 3) requires an HOA, when seeking specified monetary penalties from a member, to provide the physical evidence used to determine the violation to the member, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Davis-Stirling Act, which provides rules and regulations for the operation of residential common interest developments (CIDs) and homeowner's associations (HOAs) and their members.

- 2) Prohibits an HOA Board from imposing a regular assessment that is 20% greater than that of the preceding fiscal year.
- 3) Prohibits an HOA Board from imposing special assessments which exceed 5% of the HOA's budgeted gross expenses for that fiscal year without the approval by a majority of a quorum of members at a meeting or election.
- 4) Requires an HOA to distribute an annual budget report 30 to 90 days before the end of its fiscal year.
- 5) Requires the annual budget report to contain specified information, unless the governing documents impose more stringent standards.
- 6) Prohibits an HOA Board from imposing annual increases in regular assessments for any fiscal year unless the board has complied with the annual budget requirements for that fiscal year or has obtained the approval of a majority of a quorum of members at a member meeting or election.
- 7) Defines quorum to mean 50% or more of an HOA's membership.

This bill:

- 1) Requires an HOA Board to include a high-level summary breakdown in the form of a visual aid in their annual budget report that illustrates what the regular assessments fund, including, but not limited to, funding of administrative costs, repairs, maintenance, and, litigation, if applicable.
- 2) Requires an HOA Board that uses an external management company to include a statement of the compensation of the management company within the annual budget report.
- 3) Lowers the cap on regular assessment increases from 20% to the previous regular assessment amount plus the rate of inflation, as defined.
- 4) Requires an HOA Board, when imposing a monetary penalty against a member for violation of the governing documents, to provide the physical evidence – including digital materials – used to determine the violation to the accused member at least five business days before the hearing or the deadline for the member's response.

Background

HOAs. Homeowner associations (HOAs) are the legal governing bodies of common interest developments (CIDs), composed of homeowners who live within

the CID. These developments cover a variety of community arrangements, including apartment complexes, housing cooperatives, condominiums, and planned unit developments. In 1986, California enacted the Davis-Stirling Act, which outlines the requirements for CID and HOA governance, including assessments and other fees, maintenance responsibilities, and elections. There are over 50,000 HOAs throughout California, covering 36.3% of the state's population. In L.A. County alone, there are over 16,500 HOAs.

Comments

- 1) *Author's statement.* “During a time when Californians are gripped by dual threats, an unprecedented housing shortage and a crippling affordability crisis, many find their homeownership dreams destabilized by the volatile and sometimes arbitrary escalation of homeowner association fees. Nearly 14 million Californians live in HOAs. Protecting homeowners' financial stability requires more HOA oversight, including rules for transparency, financial accountability, and due process, keeping these monthly costs reasonable and predictable for homeowners who are on a tight budget.”
- 2) *Drivers of costs to HOAs.* Recent reporting has found that HOA insurance is one of the primary drivers of sharp increases in annual assessments. HOA insurance policies typically cover communal spaces, personal injury claims against an HOA-managed communal space, protection for Board Members against lawsuits, and natural disaster risks. Similar to standard property insurance policies, HOA insurance policies are susceptible to insurers becoming more stringent and restrictive in light of increased severity of wildfires and other natural disasters in California. More expensive premiums and fewer insurance providers have led to increased insurance cost burdens for HOAs, which are then passed onto homeowners through assessments. These costs can become particularly burdensome for condo owners, because their HOA insurance also covers shared walls and building exteriors.
- 3) *The relationship between HOAs and the broader affordability crisis.* With over one-third of Californians living in an HOA, regulations affecting these associations have widespread impacts. Statewide, 68% of Californians identify housing affordability as their top concern; and among homeowners, 4 in 10 are cost burdened.¹ Consequently, increases in monthly HOA costs are likely to worsen an already stressed population of homeowners. The bill's sponsors assert that the current 20% cap is not based on any index and can cause housing

¹ Public Policy Institute of California. *Californians and the Housing Crisis*. Accessible here: <https://www.ppic.org/interactive/californians-and-the-housing-crisis/>. n.d.

instability for homeowners in HOAs whose incomes cannot keep pace. By indexing the regular assessment cap on the previous year's rate plus the rate of inflation, the sponsors argue that homeowners will benefit from greater predictability year to year, and a stronger ability to keep pace with increases. As they write in reference to the current cap, "Needless to say, such increases can be a shock to a homeowner's wallet, since the salary or retirement income of few people increases annually by 20%. Sometimes assessments outstrip a homeowner's mortgage payment and lead to foreclosure."

- 4) *Embedded safeguards.* Existing law, pursuant to the Davis-Stirling Act, embeds multiple safeguards for associations experiencing financial challenges. For example, the cap on regular assessments specifically applies to increases without a membership vote. If an HOA needs to raise regular assessments to address higher costs, such as insurance premiums, maintenance needs, or reserve funding, the HOA may ask for approval from a majority of a quorum of homeowners voting by secret ballot. Additionally, Davis-Stirling allows special assessments to be levied, without a vote of the membership, up to 5% of an association's budgeted expenses for the year for specific purposes. Similarly to a higher regular assessment increase, special assessments may also exceed the 5% cap upon approval by a majority of a quorum of its members. The author points to these safeguards in consideration of changing the cap on regular assessments levied without a vote of the membership.
- 5) *Opposition.* Writing in opposition, the Community Associations Institute (CAI) states, "Eliminating the authority for boards to increase regular assessments by up to 20 percent annually and limiting increases to the rate of inflation threatens the financial stability of associations. Costs such as insurance, labor, energy and repairs often rise faster than inflation." CAI also states insufficient funding for reserves could create issues with lenders like FreddieMac who require a certain amount of reserve funding in an HOA's budget to lend in the community. In addition, the California Association of Community Managers is opposed, expressing concerns about the viability of getting homeowners to vote for assessment increases, given concerns around affordability.
- 6) *Double-referral.* This bill is also referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
- 7) *One-time costs.* According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, "The Department of Real Estate indicates that it would incur one-time costs, likely in the range of \$75,000 (Real Estate Fund), to promulgate regulations related to

the bill's changes to HOA annual budget report requirements and HOA authority regarding adjustments to regular assessments.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/2026)

Center for California Homeowner Association Law (Co-source)
Consumer Federation of California (Co-source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/2026)

California Association of Community Managers
California Building Industry Association
Community Associations Institute - California Legislative Action Committee

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Writing in support, the Center for California Homeowner Association Law states, “Senator Menjivar’s legislation could determine whether the 14 million Californians living in the state’s 55,000 homeowner associations will be able to continue affording the cost of their homes. “Cost” means not just paying for an individual home -- mortgage, property taxes, insurance, and utilities -- but the cost of operating the association itself.” Further, the Center for California Homeowner Association Law argues that the homeowner association industry itself recognizes that HOA boards need to use rational yardsticks – instead of fictional ones like arbitrarily raising assessments 20%.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Writing in opposition, the Community Associations Institute (CAI) states, “Eliminating the authority for boards to increase regular assessments by up to 20 percent annually and limiting increases to the rate of inflation threatens the financial stability of associations. Costs such as insurance, labor, energy and repairs often rise faster than inflation.” CAI also states insufficient funding for reserves could create issues with lenders like FreddieMac who require a certain amount of reserve funding in an HOA’s budget to lend in the community. In addition, the California Association of Community Managers is opposed, expressing concerns about the viability of getting homeowners to vote for assessment increases, given concerns around affordability.

Prepared by: Ryan Hardmeyer / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
5/1/26 13:13:00

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1048
Author: Becker (D), et al.
Amended: 4/6/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: State Seal of Climate Literacy

SOURCE: California State PTA
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Ten Strands
UndauntedK12

DIGEST: This bill (1) establishes the voluntary State Seal of Climate Literacy (SSCL) to be affixed to the diploma of qualifying high school graduates and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to recommend criteria under which participating local educational agencies (LEA) may award said seal to qualified students; (2) requires participating LEAs to collect and annually submit to the California Department of Education (CDE) specified data related to SSCL participation.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Office of Education and the Environment (OEE) in the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and requires the OEE to implement a statewide environmental education program. (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 71300)

- 2) Requires the OEE, under the direction of CalRecycle and in cooperation with the CDE and the State Board of Education (SBE), to develop and implement a unified education strategy of the environment for elementary and secondary schools, as specified. (PRC § 71300)
- 3) Requires the CDE and SBE, in cooperation with CalRecycle, to develop and implement, to the extent feasible, a teacher training and implementation plan that guides the phased implementation of the unified education strategy in elementary, middle, and high school programs, for the education of pupils, faculty, and administrators on the importance of integrating environmental concepts and programs in schools. (PRC § 71300)
- 4) Establishes the voluntary State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE), affixed to the diploma or transcript of an eligible student, to encourage, and create pathways for, students in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels. (Education Code (EC) § 51475)
- 5) Requires the SPI, in developing criteria for the SSCE, to incorporate the Six Proven Practices for Effective Civic Learning, and to consult with a diverse group of credentialed, current classroom teachers who teach the subject of history-social science, including government, in secondary schools. Requires the SPI, on or before January 1, 2020, to recommend to the SBE criteria for awarding a SSCE to students, as specified. Requires the SBE, on or before January 31, 2021, to adopt, reject, or modify the SSCE criteria recommended by the SPI. (EC § 51470 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) Establishes the voluntary SSCL for the purpose of giving high school pupils personal agency to help them and their communities understand and adapt to the effects of climate change.
- 2) Requires the SPI, on or before March 15, 2027, to recommend to the SBE criteria for awarding the SSCL to pupils who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines, green skills or technical green skills, and any and all other best practices for climate literacy. Requires the SPI to consider, in the development of criteria, the following:
 - a) Successful completion of at least two approved courses in the area of climate literacy, as specified.

- b) Successful completion and presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project as specified.
- 3) Requires the SPI to also recommend the criteria necessary for a participating LEA to additionally award to eligible pupils with an Industry and/or Higher Education Distinction, as specified.
 - 4) Requires the SPI to ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, that the criteria developed pursuant to 2) and 3) above adhere to all of the following:
 - a) Provides all pupils with an opportunity to earn the SSCL.
 - b) Recognizes pupil excellence and outstanding achievement.
 - c) Is not based primarily on pupil achievement that is already recognized through grades or other standard measures of pupil achievement.
 - d) Results in a seal that confers a benefit to pupils beyond high school.
 - 5) Requires the SBE, on or before May 1, 2027, to adopt, or adopt with modifications, the SSCL criteria recommended by the SPI.
 - 6) Requires the SPI to do all of the following:
 - a) Prepare and deliver to participating LEAs, an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded an SSCL by the SPI.
 - b) Provide other information the SPI deems necessary for LEAs to successfully participate in awarding the SSCL to pupils.
 - c) Provide information to pupils who earn a SSCL about post secondary opportunities and career pathways that leverage the knowledge and skills that pupils develop through earning the SSCL.
 - 7) Requires a participating LEA, after the SBE adopts criteria for the SSCL, to do the following:
 - a) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned an SSCL.
 - b) Affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each pupil who earns an SSCL.

- c) Provide information to pupils about available options and supports, including, but not limited to, approved courses, experiential learning, or final projects that pupils may complete to meet the criteria to earn an SSCL.
 - d) Establish a process for determining if a pupil has met the criteria necessary to earn an SSCL.
 - e) On or before September 15, 2027, and on or before September 15 of each year thereafter, provide CDE with specified data.
- 8) Establishes several definitions pursuant to this bill.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author, “California has long led the nation in climate action. SB 1048 ensures we are also leading in climate education by preparing the next generation with the knowledge and real-world experience they need to meet the challenges of a changing climate.”

California’s Environmental Principles and Concepts. In 2003 and 2005, the Legislature passed AB 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003) and AB 1721 (Pavley, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2005), which ultimately established the OEE under CalRecycle to develop education principles for the environment for elementary and secondary school pupils. The resulting California Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&Cs) are comprised of five environmental principles and 15 supporting concepts that highlight the deep relationship between humans and the natural world and serve as “big ideas” intended to inform standards-based instruction and fuel student inquiry. These EP&Cs have been integrated into several state curriculum frameworks for California public schools serving kindergarten through grade twelve, including the 2016 History and Social Science Framework, the 2016 Science Framework, and the 2019 Health Education Framework.

Equity in Access to Climate Literacy Opportunities. This bill borrows the model of SSCE to create the SSCL. Specifically, it requires the SPI to recommend to the SBE criteria that would allow LEAs to recognize students who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines, green skills or technical green skills, and any and all other best practices for climate literacy. In the development of criteria, the bill requires the SPI to consider factors such as the completion of courses in the area of climate literacy and the completion and presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project, as specified.

While the SSCL is intended to serve as a voluntary program, its implementation relies heavily on an LEA's ability to leverage partnerships with state and local climate literacy nonprofits, as well as labor and private sector entities engaged in the green economy. There are certainly areas of the state that have an abundance of local entities that are engaged with LEAs and have the capacity to partner with schools to provide learning opportunities for students; however, without careful attention to expanded access, such opportunities cannot be guaranteed for all students across the state. As a result, the SSCL may have the unintended consequence of highlighting LEAs that have the means to provide an environment where students can meet eligibility criteria, and leaving students at LEAs without such means behind.

This bill requires the SPI, in the development of recommended criteria, to ensure that to the greatest extent feasible, the recommended criteria provides all pupils with an opportunity to earn the SSCL and results in a seal that confers a benefit to the pupil beyond high school. This bill also authorizes the SPI to work with nonprofit organizations in furtherance of these priorities and others.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/16/26)

California State PTA (co-source)

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (co-source)

Ten Strands (co-source)

UndauntedK12 (co-source)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond

350 Bay Area Action

7th Generation Advisors

Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

Adolfo Camarillo High School

American River Natural History Association dba Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Arc

Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Bay Tree Design

Bluesky Consulting

Burbank Eco Council

Cadman Cooking and Garden Education Program

California Academy of Sciences

California Outdoor Recreation Partnership

California State Parks Foundation
California Teachers Association
Camp Chrysalis
Camp Ocean Pines
Canopy
Center for Ecoliteracy
CFT
Children Now
Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation
Citizens' Climate Lobby San Mateo County Chapter
City and County of San Francisco
City of Mountain View
Climate Action Campaign of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Climate Action Pathways for Schools
Climate Justice Committee, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Common Vision
Community for Natural Play Surfaces
Community Resources for Science
Crystal Cove Conservancy
Dfusion Inc.
Earthday.org
EdTrust-West
Elder Climate Action Northern California Chapter
Elders Climate Action Southern California Chapter
Environmental Education Collaborative
Environmental Nature Center
Equity Meets Design
Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools
Fremont Union High School District
Fresno Chaffee Zoo
Friends of the LA River
Friends of the Lost Coast
Green Schoolyards America
HED
Heirs to Our Oceans
iCrest Education Foundation
Inner City Bliss
Life Lab
Living Classroom
Los Angeles County Office of Education

Los Gatos Almaden Pollinator Garden
Master Gardener Association of San Diego County
Menlo Spark
National Marine Educators Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nurture Nature
Oakland Goes Outdoors
People, Food and Land Foundation
Petaluma City Schools
Pittsburg Unified School District
Plant-Based Advocates
Rialto Unified School District
Richmond Outdoors Coalition
Roots to Branches Education
Sacramento Splash
Samuel Lawrence Foundation
San Diego Pediatricians for Clean Air
San Francisco Climate Literacy Advocates
San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School
SanDiego350
Santa Clara County Medical Association
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Steam Learning Institute
Strategic Energy Innovations
Sustainable Marin Schools
Sustainable Mill Valley
SustainConsulting, LLC
The Escondido Creek Conservancy
The Friends of Daley Ranch
Three Oaks Outdoor Science School, Inc.
Tomorrow's Talent
TreePeople
trubel&co
U.S. Green Building Council
UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science
United Teachers Los Angeles
Water Energy Education Alliance
Western Municipal Water District
YES Nature to Neighborhoods
Youth v. Oil

Three Individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/16/26)

None received

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
4/21/26 16:19:37

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1088
Author: Blakespear (D)
Amended: 3/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove,
Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird,
Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

SUBJECT: Health care decisions: life-sustaining treatment

SOURCE: Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

DIGEST: This bill brings consistency in authorized signatories for requests regarding resuscitative measures, allows electronic signatures on Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment forms (renames to Portable Orders Listing Scope of Treatment [POLST]), recognizes out-of-state requests regarding resuscitative measures to the same extent as a POLST executed in California, requires POLSTs to be dated, and where there are two POLSTs, the dated form to be considered most recent. Requires requests regarding resuscitative measures to be voluntary. Allows a physician or other health care provider to assume a request regarding resuscitative measures is valid and unrevoked.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Commission on Emergency Medical Services, which is a 19-member body in the California Health and Human Services Agency that

reviews and approves regulations, standards, and guidelines to be developed by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), and advises on communications, equipment, training, facilities and other components of the EMS system. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1799-1799.8]

- 2) Establishes an “Advance Health Care Directive” (AHCD), which gives an individual the right to give instructions about their physical and mental health care and name another individual to act as an agent to make health care decisions for the individual. [Probate Code (PROB) §4000-4071]
- 3) Defines “request regarding resuscitative measures” as a written document signed by an individual with capacity, or a legally recognized health care decisionmaker, and the individual’s physician, that directs a health care provider regarding resuscitative measures. This request is not an AHCD. Indicates a request regarding resuscitative measures can be a prehospital “do not resuscitate form” (DNR) or a POLST. [PROB §4780]
- 4) Establishes POLST and authorizes a legally recognized health care decisionmaker to execute the POLST order only if the individual lacks capacity, or the individual has designated a decisionmaker, as specified. Establishes the POLST eRegistry Act administered by EMSA. [PROB §4780-4786 and HSC §1860-1863]
- 5) Defines “POLST” as a form that is a request regarding resuscitative measures that directs a health care provider regarding resuscitative and life-sustaining measures. Requires POLST to be completed by a health care provider based on patient preferences, and signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant acting under the supervision of the physician. [HSC §1861 and PROB §4780]
- 6) Defines “electronic signature” in the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act as an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the electronic record. Indicates a digital signature is a type of electronic signature. Permits the use of digital signatures in written communication with a public entity by any party to the communication if it is compliance with the law, as specified. [Civil Code (CIV) §1633.2 and Government Code (GOV) §16.5]

- 7) Defines “digital signature” as an electronic identifier, created by computer, intended by the party using it to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature. [GOV §16.5]

This bill:

- 1) Allows the following individuals to be signatories on a “request regarding resuscitative measures”: a health care agent, conservator, or surrogate, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant acting under the supervision of the physician.
- 2) Replaces the term “legally recognized health care decisionmaker” with “health care agent, conservator, or surrogate,” to describe who may execute a POLST.
- 3) Defines “surrogate” as the term exists in specified existing law and includes an individual authorized to act on behalf of a facility’s interdisciplinary team in overseeing the care of a resident, as specified.
- 4) Requires an electronic signature to be sufficient for any signature required for a request regarding resuscitative measures.
- 5) Requires the POLST form to contain the date the document was signed by the health care provider and the patient, or their health care agent, conservator, or surrogate. Clarifies that a form without a date is not invalid, however requires, if there are a dated and undated form, the dated form to be treated as more recent.
- 6) Requires a request regarding resuscitative measures in any form to be entirely voluntarily and prohibits the provision of care or admission to a facility from being conditioned on completion of or refusal to complete a POLST form or DNR order.
- 7) Requires a request regarding resuscitative measures or substantially similar instrument executed in another state or jurisdiction in compliance with the laws of that state or jurisdiction or of this state to be valid and enforceable in California to the same extent as a POLST form validly executed in California.
- 8) Allows in the absence of knowledge to the contrary, a physician or other health care provider to presume a request regarding resuscitative measures, whether executed in another state or jurisdiction or in California, to be valid and unrevoked.

Comments

According to the author of this bill, people should have control over the end of their lives and the care they receive, even if they are unconscious. This bill updates the name of POLST—from Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment to Portable Orders Listing Scope of Treatment—in recognition that nurse practitioners and physician assistants can sign them. It also creates a presumption that POLST and prehospital DNRs from out-of-state are valid the same way as are out-of-state advance directives. Finally, it allows electronic signatures to help the transition to a statewide electronic POLST registry. By aligning advance care directives, POLSTs, and prehospital DNRs, this bill ensures there are no ambiguities or uncertainties about end-of-life care.

Background

According to EMSA, POLST is approved by EMSA and the Commission on EMS and was developed by the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California (CCCC). POLST is a medical order that gives seriously ill patients more control over their care by specifying the type of medical treatment a patient wishes to receive at the end of life. The EMSA approved POLST must be signed and dated by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant acting under the supervision of the physician, and the patient or legally recognized health care decisionmaker, and should be clearly posted or maintained near the patient. It is recommended that POLST be copied on bright pink paper to help ensure that the document stands out and is followed, however any color is valid. The POLST form is available for free on EMSA's website. EMSA states that the prehospital DNR is an official document developed by EMSA, in concert with the California Medical Association (CMA), and EMS providers, for the purposes of instructing EMS personnel regarding a patient's decision to forgo resuscitative measures in the event of cardiopulmonary arrest. Resuscitative measures to be withheld include chest compressions, assisted ventilation, endotracheal intubation, defibrillation, and drugs which stimulate the heart. The form does not affect the provision of life sustaining measures such as artificial nutrition or hydration or the provision of other emergency medical care, including treatment for pain, difficulty breathing, major bleeding, or other medical conditions. The DNR must be signed by the patient or by the patient's legally recognized health care decisionmaker if the patient is unable to make or communicate informed health care decisions. The patient's physician must also sign the form, affirming that the patient/legally recognized health care decisionmaker has given informed consent. The DNR should be clearly posted or maintained near the patient. The DNR form is available to order for a small cost on the CMA's website.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/30/26)

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California (source)
Alliance of Catholic Health Care
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
Alzheimer's Orange County
Alzheimer's San Diego
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine
California Catholic Conference
Compassion & Choices
End of Life Choices, California
Hemlock Society of San Diego
My Directives, Inc.
Five individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/30/26)

California Clinical Nurse Specialist Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill's sponsor, CCCC, intends for this bill to correct misunderstandings and misalignments with advance care planning tools such as the AHCD, prehospital DNR, and POLST. According to CCCC, this bill aligns these tools by recognizing the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in end-of-life and other crisis decisions making and allowing them to sign prehospital DNR orders as well as POLST. CCCC writes this bill renames POLST to better reflect the range of authorized signing providers and its broad purpose in specifying treatments beyond life-sustaining or end-of-life care, more clearly identifies which surrogates and authority apply when signing a POLST on behalf of an incapacitated patient, and, ensures continuity of care across state lines by creating a presumption of validity for POLST or DNR executed out of California. The California Association of Health Facilities writes this bill puts patients first by reducing confusion, strengthening continuity of care, and ensuring that person's medical wishes are honored when they matter most. The California Academy of Family Physicians believes this bill ensures patients' wishes are honored, facilitates informed decision-making, and enables physicians, patients,

and families to collaborate in providing compassionate, patient-centered care at the end of life. Alzheimer's Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego write that a POLST plays an important role in ensuring that people with Alzheimer's and other dementias can get the care that they want and prevent them from getting treatments they do not want.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CACNS) is opposed unless amended and requests an amendment to include Clinical Nurse Specialists, acting within their scope of practice, to be explicitly authorized to sign POLST forms. CACNS writes that Clinical Nurse Specialists bring the same and often greater education and clinical expertise as other advanced practice roles included in this bill.

Prepared by: Teri Boughton / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
5/1/26 13:13:01

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1090
Author: Pérez (D)
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab,
Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Alvarado-Gil

SUBJECT: Offers of purchase: real property damaged by wildfire disaster

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits unsolicited offers to purchase real property in areas affected by a wildfire disaster by an institutional investor, as defined, for five years after the proclamation of the disaster.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Prohibits unfair, fraudulent, and deceptive practices in contracting, including for real estate transactions. (Civil (Civ.) Code §§ 1573, 1709, 1710.)
- 2) Specifies that a person defrauded in the purchase, sale, or exchange of property is entitled to recover damages from the fraud, as specified. (Civ. Code § 3343.)
- 3) Protects homeowners from certain predatory practices when the homeowner is being foreclosed upon. (Civ. Code §§ 2945 et seq.)
- 4) Places specific duties upon real estate brokers or salespersons, and requires various disclosures and verifications for certain real estate transactions. (Civ. Code §§ 20179 et seq.; Civ. Code §§ 1102 et seq.; Government Code §§ 27201 et seq.)

- 5) Establishes the Real Estate Law to provide for the licensure and regulation of real estate brokers and realtors and prohibits fraudulent, dishonest, or misleading conduct in real estate transactions. (Business & Professions Code §§ 10000 et seq.)
- 6) Prohibits a person from making an unsolicited offer to purchase residential real property in specified ZIP codes in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, until January 1, 2027, and provides various enforcement mechanism for this prohibition. (Civ. Code § 2079.26.)

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits an institutional investor from making an unsolicited offer to purchase real property, including but not limited to, any lot, parcel, or home, that is located in an area affected by a wildfire disaster for which a state of emergency was proclaimed by the Governor or the President of the United States.
- 2) Applies this prohibition for five years from the date that the state of emergency is proclaimed.
- 3) Defines, for its provisions:
 - a) “institutional investor” to mean, with respect to any taxable year, any individual or entity that owns, directly or indirectly, 75 or more single-family properties.
 - b) “unsolicited offer to purchase” to mean an offer to purchase real property made by an institutional investor by text message, email, telephone call, mail, or other means of communication, unless there is a public indication that the owner is willing to sell the property at or before the time the unsolicited offer to purchase is made, including but not limited to, any of the following:
 - i. the property is listed for sale by the owner or their agent on a multiple listing service or on any publicly available marketing platform;
 - ii. the owner placed a “for sale” sign on the property; or
 - iii. the owner advertised the property for sale in a print publication or a flyer posted in a public place.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/30/2026)

United States Senator Adam Schiff

California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Public Counsel

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/30/2026)

California Apartment Association
California Building Industry Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, which supports this bill:

In January 2025, the Eaton and Palisades Fire ravaged the Los Angeles metropolitan region. Among the challenges that emerged in the aftermath was the increased presence of large-scale investors aggressively pursuing properties at below market prices from devastated wildfire survivors. This dynamic is often described as “disaster capitalism,” and has occurred in several post disaster communities. Following Hurricane Katrina, for example, one investor group purchasing more than 600 homes. After the 2023 Maui Fires, impacted residents reported being aggressively approached with offers to purchase their properties well below market value.

In response to these post disaster threats, local governments and officials adopted executive orders to establish temporary protections including Hawaii after the 2023 Maui Fires, and Florida following Hurricane Ian. In that same spirit, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-7-25 on January 14, 2025 to temporarily prohibit predatory real estate speculators from offering less than fair market value for property interest within the disaster impact area until July 1, 2025.⁵ The order emphasized the need to protect those “especially vulnerable to exploitative practices of unscrupulous individuals who seek to profit from this disaster.” It is also worth noting that recovery from large-scale fires that struck California between 2017-20 has proven to be a long and difficult process, lasting as much as seven years.

While Executive order N-7-25 provided protections, they were temporary but may not have achieved its full intended effect. As residents continue to navigate the rebuilding process, reports indicate that investor representatives have approached Altadena residents affected by the fire with unsolicited and quick low cash offers for their properties. Accounts describe investor representatives attempting to dissuade residents from rebuilding, while urging them to instead accept these low cash offers. Local constituents have

also reported investor representatives seeking out survivors at FEMA recovery workshops.

Property purchase trends in Altadena before and after the Eaton Fire show an increased trend of investor activity following the disaster. Although investor ownership already existed in Altadena prior to the fire, investor lot purchases sky rocketed. One report found investors purchased close to 49% of properties from February to July 2025 when the executive order was in effect, compared to only about 10% during this same time span in 2024. Similar trends were observed in property sales in the Pacific Palisades and Malibu.

Predatory real estate speculation can have a ripple effect on the fabric of impacted communities, driving up housing costs, permanently displacing fire victims, and destabilizing communities through gentrification. As the community struggles to rebuild, long term protections against “disaster capitalism” are viewed by many as essential, especially as recovery from the Eaton fire is once again proving that rebuilding following a major fire is a slow and gradual process.

SB 1090 provides long term protections for disaster-impacted residents throughout the rebuilding period by establishing a five-year prohibition on any individual or entity that owns 75 or more single-family properties from making unsolicited offers to purchase real property in areas affected by a wildfire disaster where an emergency has been declared. This bill will provide disaster-impacted survivors the assurance and stability they need to focus on rebuilding their lives without being pressured or hassled to sell their property at an inopportune or inappropriate time.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the California Business Industry Association and the California Apartment Association, which oppose this bill:

First, the bill restricts lawful communication and voluntary market activity between willing parties. By prohibiting certain buyers from even making an unsolicited offer, the measure interferes with a property owner’s fundamental right to receive offers in order to dispose of their property as they see fit. This restriction raises significant constitutional concerns, including violations of the First Amendment (commercial speech) and the Fifth Amendment’s protections related to property rights.

Second, SB 1090 limits options for property owners at a time when flexibility is most needed. Following a wildfire disaster, many homeowners face financial uncertainty, insurance challenges, or displacement. Some may actively welcome offers that allow them to move forward quickly. This bill removes a category of potential buyers from the marketplace, reducing competition and directly disadvantaging the very homeowners the bill intends to protect.

Third, the bill represents a clear example of government overreach. It assumes that property owners are unable to evaluate offers or act in their own best interests, effectively substituting the judgment of the state for that of individuals. Californians are fully capable of deciding whether to accept or reject an offer, particularly with the support of existing consumer protection laws and professional advisors. Imposing a blanket prohibition sends the message that individuals cannot be trusted to make their own financial decisions and invites unnecessary “big government” intrusion into private transactions.

Fourth, the bill imposes an arbitrary and overly broad five-year prohibition. Market conditions, recovery timelines, and individual circumstances vary widely after disasters. A one-size-fits-all, multi-year restriction does not reflect the realities of recovery and unnecessarily prolongs government intrusion into private transactions.

Finally, existing laws already address fraud, coercion, and unfair business practices. If the concern is predatory behavior, targeted enforcement of those laws—or narrowly tailored consumer protections—would be a more appropriate and effective approach than a sweeping ban on property offers.

Prepared by: Ian Dougherty / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/1/26 13:13:02

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1094
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Amended: 4/8/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/6/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello,
Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Prescription drugs

SOURCE: California Association of Health Plans

DIGEST: This bill updates Pharmacy Law to authorize a pharmacist to select an alternative biological product for a prescribed biological product if it is a biosimilar. Authorizes health plans and insurers to require enrollees to try a therapeutically equivalent generic, biosimilar, or interchangeable biological product if the prescriber has not indicated “Do not substitute” and when the generics or biosimilars are covered by the health plan or insurer and available to the enrollee at the same or lower cost.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

- 1) Prohibits, via the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA), introduction of a “new drug” into interstate commerce unless a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved application is in effect. (21 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 355)

- 2) Prohibits, via the Public Health Service Act (PHSA), introduction of a biological product into interstate commerce without an approved biologics license. (42 U.S.C. § 262(a))
- 3) Establishes drug approval pathways but does not regulate pharmacy-level substitution, leaving the regulation of prescription drug substitution to state law. (21 U.S.C. § 355; 42 U.S.C. § 262)

Existing state law establishes the Pharmacy Law which provides for the licensure and regulation of pharmacies, pharmacists, and dangerous drug or device wholesalers, and establishes the Board of Pharmacy (Board) to enforce the Pharmacy Law. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 4000 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) States Legislative intent to promote the use of equally effective lower cost treatments to ensure access and affordability for Californians and to promote the coverage of equally effective lower cost products within three calendar months of national availability.
- 2) Updates Pharmacy Law to authorize a pharmacist to select an alternative biological product for a prescribed biological product if it is a biosimilar or interchangeable, rather than if the alternative biological product is interchangeable. Specifies that biosimilar has the same meaning as under BPCIA.
- 3) Authorizes health plans and insurers to require enrollees to try a therapeutically equivalent generic, biosimilar, or interchangeable biological product if the prescriber has not indicated “Do not substitute” and when the generics or biosimilars are covered by the health plan or insurer and available to the enrollee at the same or lower cost. Requires health plans and insurers to report to Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) or Department of Insurance (DOI) the proportion of plan-required substitutions that result in reduced cost sharing for the enrollee, information about those substitutions that did not experience reduced cost sharing, and the impact of substitutions on premiums.

Background

Pharmacists and Substitution for Generic Drugs. The FDA defines a generic drug as the same as a brand-name drug in dosage, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics, and intended use. Before

approving a generic drug product, the FDA requires rigorous testing and review to ensure that the generic can be substituted for the brand-name drug. The FDA evaluates substitutability, or “therapeutic equivalence,” based on scientific evidence. Generic drug products must contain the same active ingredient(s), strength, dosage form, and route of administration as the brand-name product. A drug determined to be therapeutically equivalent can be expected to have the same clinical effect and safety profile when substituted for the brand-name drug. The FDA publishes *Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations*, commonly known as the “Orange Book,” which identifies drug products approved on the basis of safety and effectiveness under federal law. The FDA also provides daily electronic updates to the Orange Book to reflect new generic drug approvals and maintain a current list of therapeutically equivalent products for substitution purposes.

A prescription that includes refills authorizes a pharmacist to dispense the prescribed drug at the time of each fill, including refills, consistent with substitution authority. Pursuant to BPC § 4073, when a drug product is prescribed by its trade name, a pharmacist may select an equivalent drug product with the same active ingredient, strength, and dosage form, unless the prescriber indicates “Do not substitute.” This authority applies at the time of dispensing and permits the pharmacist, in their professional discretion, to select among therapeutically equivalent products, including substituting a generic drug for a brand-name drug or dispensing products from different manufacturers over time, provided that the substituted product complies with applicable equivalence, labeling, and cost requirements.

Pharmacies routinely dispense an FDA-approved equivalent product that is covered or preferred by a patient’s health plan, which can result in patients receiving different generic versions across refills. The pharmacist is dispensing a therapeutically equivalent drug product rather than altering the prescription itself. Therapeutic equivalence is determined based on scientific evaluations reflected in the Orange Book. Pharmacists may not substitute a product with a different active ingredient or a therapeutic alternative without prescriber authorization. This allows pharmacists to adapt to changing coverage and supply conditions at the time of each dispensing, including refills, while maintaining the requirement that the medication dispensed remains pharmaceutically and therapeutically equivalent.

Biologics. Biologic medicines are complex therapies that typically treat very serious diseases and conditions, including blood conditions, cancers, immune disorders like Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriasis and Crohn’s Disease, as well as

neurological disorders like Multiple Sclerosis. Biologics are often administered in clinical settings such as physician offices or infusion centers, though many are also dispensed through specialty pharmacies for self-administration. Biological products are generally derived from living material, human, animal, or microorganism and FDA regulations specify that biological products include blood-derived products, vaccines, in vivo diagnostic allergenic products, immunoglobulin products, products containing cells or microorganisms, and most protein products, as defined under the Public Health Service Act.

Alternative Biological Products - Biosimilars. Biologics, often referred to as originator biological products or reference biological products, when discussing interchangeability and therapeutic equivalence, are large, complex protein molecules used in the treatment, diagnosis or prevention of disease. These are quite different from small molecule drugs, pills, which are not as structurally complex and are instead relatively simple, organic substances produced by chemical methods. Biologic medicines, on the other hand, are made in living organisms to produce proteins by genetically modifying cell constructs or cell lines. Biologics are grown, cultivated, and purified and are typically administered as injectables.

Due to the inherent complexity of biologics, biosimilars are not identical to their reference products but must be demonstrated to be highly similar, with no clinically meaningful differences in safety, purity, or potency. The molecular structure and functional characteristics of a biosimilar are expected to closely resemble those of the reference biologic, and unlike generic drugs which require the active ingredient to be identical, the exact manufacturing process of an original biologic cannot be exactly duplicated.

In response to increases in an aging population and larger numbers of patients suffering from chronic disease, there has been a rise in use of biologics, and accordingly a rise in the production efforts of biosimilars. Biosimilars go through an extensive review process, and manufacturers are required to submit immense studies and data demonstrating a products' efficacy and ensuring it is safe for use by consumers. Manufacturers also must establish ongoing monitoring programs to ensure the safety of biosimilars.

Interchangeability and Substitution. FDA guidance on biosimilars and interchangeability addresses the evidentiary standards for product approval, not pharmacy-level substitution, which FDA has stated is outside the scope of its approval authority and instead governed by state pharmacy law. (U.S. Food and

Drug Administration, *Considerations in Demonstrating Interchangeability With a Reference Product* (2019); 42 U.S.C. § 262(k).)

Under a 2025 final rule, the Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded how Medicare Part D plans can manage biologic drugs on their formularies. Medicare Part D, which provides outpatient prescription drug coverage to tens of millions of seniors and people with disabilities, now allows plan sponsors to treat biosimilars as therapeutically equivalent options for formulary placement and coverage, without requiring that the biosimilar be designated as interchangeable. (Medicare Program; Contract Year 2025 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs, 89 Fed. Reg. 30448 (Apr. 23, 2024); see also CMS Fact Sheet, Apr. 2024.) While this policy does not govern pharmacy-level substitution, it reflects a shift toward treating all biosimilars as clinically appropriate alternatives.

In 2025, FDA proposed, as part of its legislative priorities, to eliminate the statutory distinction between the approval standard for biosimilar and interchangeable biosimilar products to deem that approved biosimilars are interchangeable.

Comments

The California Pharmacists Association requests that the bill be amended to “ensure that pharmacies are reimbursed at or above their cost of acquisition, along with a reasonable dispensing fee.” The group states that “this will help ensure that the intended savings for patients do not come at the expense of access.”

The Pharmaceutical Care Management Association writes that if this bill is enacted, it “would drive savings from enhanced biosimilar and generic competition, and patients would directly benefit... SB 1094 helps patients access more affordable medicines while ensuring all existing safety and clinical safeguards are kept in place. Generic and biosimilar substitutions must follow strict FDA standards and doctors always have the final say. Nothing in the bill overrides their medical judgement.” The organization notes that “As SB 1094 moves through the legislative process, PCMA would like to stress the importance of ensuring that the bill preserves the intended flexibility for substitution outlined in the original bill language.”

The California Society of Health-System Pharmacists requests that the bill be amended to clarify that “the law can’t be construed to require a medical provider or

pharmacy to stock, procure, dispense, or administer drug products from manufacturers or distributors that are not part of the provider or pharmacy's existing contractual agreements." The group states that as the bill is currently drafted could have unintended consequences if health plans mandated a "plan-designated" biosimilar that falls outside a pharmacy's existing contracts that could then "disrupt procurement operations, inadvertently shift costs from the health plan onto the health system, and potentially place pharmacies in breach of their existing supply agreements."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:Yes Local:Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

California Association of Health Plans (sponsor)
America's Health Insurance Plans
America's Physician Groups
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Afl-cio
American Gi Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria, CA
American Muslims for Sustainability
Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
Blue Shield of California
CA African American Chamber of Commerce
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Association of Health Plans
California Chamber of Commerce
California State Council of Service Employees International Union
Coalition of LA Probation Unions
Cpca Advocates, Subsidiary of the California Primary Care Association
Cvs Health
Cvs/caremark Corporation
Hardesty LLC
Health Access California
Los Angeles Civil Rights Association
Santa Clara County Probation Peace Officer's Union, Afscme Local 1587
Shalom International Outreach
Sharp Healthcare
The Sperantia Foundation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines

Amgen
Biocom
Biocom California
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
California Rheumatology Alliance
Infusion Access Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, INC
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

Supporters write that “Biologics and biosimilars are designed to treat complex and serious conditions like autoimmune diseases and cancer. In addition to the emotional burden of being affected by these conditions, patients and their families are currently expected to pay top dollar for treatment. The Department of Health and Human Services reports that expensive biologic medications make up only 5% of prescriptions in the U.S. but account for 51% of total drug spending as of 2024. There has been an undue financial burden placed on a relatively small proportion of patients and families who are already working through unimaginable circumstances. SB 1094 provides an alternative, creating a pathway for patients to access lower-cost prescriptions that are still safe and effective.” According to supporters, “Brand drug manufacturers have a history of employing anti-competitive strategies to limit the availability of generics and biosimilars — such as paying to delay their release — which is estimated to drive up drug costs by nearly \$12 billion per year. Increased availability of more affordable prescriptions is essential in a climate where manufacturers continue to arbitrarily push prices higher, while patients fight daily to afford their medications.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

Opposition writes that, SB 1094 would inappropriately permit third-party pharmacy level substitution of non-interchangeable biosimilars” and “support for any biosimilar substitution from the medical societies and patient advocacy organizations for any biosimilar substitution has always been contingent on the assurance that ONLY interchangeable biosimilars may be substituted by someone other than the patient’s physician.” The groups claim that the bill would “expand the ability of third parties like insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers to drive substitution decisions based on profitability and without adequate clinical justification (non-medical switching).” Opposition further states,

“that the bill would weaken patient safeguards and threaten patient wellbeing by overriding California’s prohibition on non-medical switching to prohibit a previously approved drug that is protected under non-medical switching law by allowing a switch” and “substitution should only occur when the FDA has designated a biologic product as interchangeable and proper protections are upheld including Pharmacist-Patient communication to ensure complete transparency and pharmacovigilance.” The opposition is also concerned with the health insurance provisions in this bill that give health insurance companies the authority to force a patient to try a biosimilar regardless of how stable they are on their existing therapy.

Prepared by: Sarah Mason /Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. /
5/5/26 15:55:41

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1106
Author: Cabaldon (D)
Introduced: 2/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 8-0, 4/6/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg,
Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

SUBJECT: Data brokers

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill shortens the timelines within which a data broker must comply with various provisions within the Delete Act.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a business, on or before January 31 following each year in which it meets the definition of a data broker, to register with the Privacy Protection Agency (PPA), as provided. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.99.82.)
- 2) Defines “data broker” as a business that knowingly collects and sells to third parties the personal information of a consumer with whom the business does not have a direct relationship, except as provided. (Civ. Code § 1798.99.80.)
- 3) Requires data brokers to provide, and the PPA to include on its website, the name of the data broker and its primary physical, email, and website addresses,

as well as various other disclosures, including whether the broker collects consumers' precise geolocation or reproductive health care data and whether they collect the personal information of minors. Data brokers may, at their discretion, also provide additional information concerning their data collection practices. (Civ. Code §§ 1798.99.82, 1798.99.84.)

- 4) Subjects a data broker that fails to register as required to administrative fines and costs to be recovered in an administrative action brought by the PPA. (Civ. Code § 1798.99.82.)
- 5) Requires the PPA to establish an accessible deletion mechanism, as provided, that allows consumers, through a single request, to request all data brokers to delete any personal information related to the consumer, as specified. Data brokers are required to access the mechanism every 45 days and process requests for deletion, as specified, within 45 days.
- 6) Provides that in cases where a data broker denies a consumer request to delete because the request cannot be verified, the data broker must process the request as an opt-out of the sale or sharing of the consumer's personal information, as provided for pursuant to the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), within 45 days of receiving the request. (Civ. Code § 1798.99.86.)
- 7) Provides that after a consumer has submitted a deletion request and a data broker has deleted the consumer's data pursuant hereto, the data broker must delete all personal information of the consumer, except as provided, within 45 days beginning August 1, 2026. (Civ. Code § 1798.99.86.)
- 8) Establishes the CCPA, which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information. (Civ. Code § 1798.100 et seq.)
- 9) Provides consumers the right to request that a business delete any personal information about the consumer which the business has collected from the consumer. (Civ. Code § 1798.105(a).)
- 10) Provides a consumer the right, at any time, to direct a business that sells or shares personal information about the consumer to third parties not to sell or share the consumer's personal information. (Civ. Code § 1798.120.)

This bill reduces the above timelines in the Delete Act from 45 days to 30 days.

Background

Data brokers collect and profit from consumers' data without having any direct relationship with the consumers whose information they amass. In order to bring this industry into the light and more fully inform consumers about who is collecting their personal information and how, California established a data broker registry, requiring data brokers to register annually with the California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy). Data brokers are required to pay a fee and provide certain information about their location, email, and website addresses.

Recent updates have bolstered the law to provide consumers more control over their information. This included a requirement that CalPrivacy create an accessible deletion mechanism that allows consumers, through a single request, to request all data brokers to delete any personal information related to the consumer, as specified. Data brokers are required to access the mechanism every 45 days and process requests for deletion and delete such information within 45 days thereafter. Beginning August 1, 2026, data brokers are required to delete all personal information of such consumers at least once every 45 days, as specified.

This bill again fortifies the law by shortening these time frames from 45 to 30 days. The bill is author sponsored. The California Initiative for Technology and Democracy is in support. No timely opposition has been received.

Comments

To address concerns about the lack of transparency around data brokers' collection of consumer information, AB 1202 (Chau, Chapter 753, Statutes of 2019) established California's data broker registry. The bill was modeled on a Vermont law, Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 9, §§ 2446 et seq., and requires data brokers to register and pay a registration fee on an annual basis.

The law defines a "data broker" as "a business that knowingly collects and sells to third parties the personal information of a consumer with whom the business does not have a direct relationship." To ensure consistency and to avoid confusion, the statute relies on existing definitions of "personal information," "third party," and "sale" in the CCPA.

Last session, SB 362 (Becker, Chapter 709, Statutes of 2023) bolstered the utility and effectiveness of the data broker registry law in myriad ways and strengthened consumers' right to deletion as to data brokers. Known as the "Delete Act," SB 362 required the creation of an accessible deletion mechanism by CalPrivacy that

allows consumers, through a single request, to request all data brokers to delete any personal information related to the consumer, as specified. CalPrivacy has created that mechanism, which is known as the “Delete Request and Opt-out Platform” or DROP.

Strengthening the Delete Act. Beginning August 1, 2026, a data broker is required to access DROP at least once every 45 days. Within 45 days after receiving a request, data brokers are required to process the deletion request and delete all personal information related to the consumer making the request consistent with the requirements of the Delete Act. In cases where a data broker denies a consumer request to delete because the request cannot be verified, the data broker must process the request as an opt-out of the sale or sharing of the consumer’s personal information, as provided in the CCPA, within 45 days of receiving the request.

Beginning August 1, 2026, after a consumer has submitted a deletion request and a data broker has deleted the consumer’s data, the data broker must delete all personal information of the consumer at least once every 45 days unless the consumer requests otherwise or the deletion is not required.

This bill reduces each of the above 45-day timelines to 30 days, expediting the ability of consumers to have their personal information deleted by data brokers.

According to the author:

California has taken important steps to give consumers the power to delete that data through a centralized deletion mechanism, but current law allows data brokers up to 45 days to act on those requests.

SB 1106 reduces that window to 30 days. When Californians exercise their power to reclaim their personal information, data brokers should act promptly. This bill holds the industry to a standard that puts people first.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy) anticipates costs associated with updating the DROP platform, rulemaking, and enforcement. Costs to update the Delete Request and Opt-Out Platform (DROP) include content updates, technical implementation, and testing, and are estimated to

be \$100,000 one-time. For rulemaking and enforcement, CalPrivacy expects costs will be absorbable in the near term. However, based on overall compliance with the requirements of the measure enforcement, when data brokers fail to meet their 45 day data download/upload obligations, may require additional resources.

DROP, which is set to be fully operational August 1, 2026, is funded by registration fees deposited annually into the Data Broker Registry Fund. Any changes in programmatic spending may require a commensurate increase in registration fees.

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/20/26)

California Initiative for Technology and Democracy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Initiative for Technology and Democracy writes:

Online disclosure of personal information creates privacy risks for Californians, allowing them to be tracked and targeted with great precision. Moreover, once personal information about an individual is shared or collected, it can be sold and shared among hundreds of data brokers, making a mockery of any sense of privacy we may have. To increase online privacy, California's Delete Request and Opt-Out Platform or DROP, established by SB 362 (Becker), Chap. 709, Stats. 2023, and fully effective in August 2026, allows Californians, through a single request made to CalPrivacy, to opt-out of most online data collection of their personal information. Data brokers are required to delete that information within 45 days of request and then at least once every 45 days thereafter.

SB 1106 shortens the timeframe in which data brokers have to delete personal information, from 45 days of the request to 30 days and then every 30 days thereafter. This shortened deletion period better protects

Californians who choose to use DROP by requiring more timely removal of their personal information. More timely removal means less private information is circulating around the internet to anyone willing to pay for it.

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
4/21/26 16:19:38

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1112
Author: Archuleta (D)
Amended: 4/16/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Vehicles: towing companies and storage facilities

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill increases the amount of civil liability recoverable in a civil action for the violation of Vehicle Code section 22651.07 to up to three times the amount charged instead of two times. The bill also provides that the liability shall not exceed \$1,000 per vehicle instead of \$500.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Specifies requirements that a person, as defined, including a tow yard, storage facility, or an impounding yard that charges for towing or storage or both, must follow including posting a notice of towing and storage fees. (Vehicle Code § 22651.07.)
- 2) Provides that a person who violates the above is civilly liable to a registered or legal owner of the vehicle, or a registered owner's insurer, for up to two times the amount charged. Provides that the liability shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per vehicle. (Vehicle Code § 22651.07 (k).)

This bill increases the amount of civil liability recoverable in a civil action for the violation of the above to up to three times the amount charged and provides that the liability shall not exceed \$1,000 per vehicle.

Comments

According to the author, “Bandit towing refers to the act of a towing company taking or holding a vehicle under false pretenses or for excessive fees. This phenomenon has been on the rise, especially in Southern California. A 2025 Department of Insurance Inland Empire Automobile Insurance Fraud Task Force report found that just one fraud ring had conspired to collect over \$200,000 from consumers and rental companies. These bad actors harm everyone: California consumers, tourists, car rental companies, and even the legitimate towing industry itself. Inspired by a recently enacted law out of Florida, SB 1112 attempts to crack down on bandit towing [. . .].

This is a consumer protection bill. It would increase civil penalties for any violations of Vehicle Code § 22651.07 to up to three times the amount charged instead of two times. It also provides that the liability shall not exceed \$1,000 per vehicle instead of \$500. Section 22651.07 sets forth requirements that a tow yard, storage facility, or an impounding yard that charges for towing or storage or both, must follow, including posting a notice of towing and storage fees.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

American Car Rental Association
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Consumer Federation of California
Dolores Huerta Foundation
Enterprise Mobility

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

California Tow Truck Association

Prepared by: Margie Estrada / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/5/26 15:55:42

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1115
Author: Grove (R)
Amended: 4/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/29/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SUBJECT: Public cemetery districts: board of trustees: County of Tulare

SOURCE: County of Tulare

DIGEST: This bill allows a public cemetery district in Tulare County or the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors to remove a trustee.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Public Cemetery District Law, contains various provisions relating to the establishment of public cemetery districts, including the formation of a district, the selection of a district governing board, and the powers and duties of the board
- 2) Sets the term of office for a member of the board of trustees at 4 years, subject to certain exceptions,
- 3) Prohibits a board of supervisors from reducing the term of office of a trustee once the trustee has been appointed to that term.

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes the board of trustees of a public cemetery district in the County of Tulare to adopt a resolution to remove a trustee for specified causes, including substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office, or causing the board to be unable to discharge its duties,

- 2) Entitles the trustee to notice and opportunity to respond to the proposed removal,
- 3) Requires, if a board of trustees of a public cemetery district in the County of Tulare adopts a resolution that orders the removal of a trustee, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to promptly appoint a person to the board of trustees to fulfill the remaining term of office, as specified.
- 4) Authorizes the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution proposing the removal of a trustee from the board of trustees of a public cemetery district in the County of Tulare,
- 5) Requires the resolution to be considered at a public hearing, as specified,
- 6) Authorizes after receiving and considering comments at the public hearing, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution that orders the removal of the trustee,
- 7) Requires, if the Tulare County Board of Supervisors adopts a resolution that orders the removal of the trustee, the board of supervisors to promptly appoint a person to the board of trustees to fulfill the remaining term of office, as specified.

Background

California has 253 public cemetery districts, which are independent local government entities that operate cemeteries and provide interment services, mostly in rural areas and suburbs that were formerly rural communities. A board of trustees with at least three registered voters from within the district's boundaries governs a cemetery district. All members are appointed by the board of supervisors after adopting a resolution. However, the board of supervisors may also, by adopting a resolution, appoint itself as the board of trustees or subsequently divest themselves of that authority. The districts finance their operations with small shares of local property tax revenues, by selling interment rights, and by charging for their services. Cemetery districts must have endowment care funds and must charge endowment fees to help pay for maintaining district cemeteries.

Tulare County. Tulare County has five public cemeteries districts: Eshom Valley, Three Rivers, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodlake. In recent years, the five-member board of trustees for the Tulare Public Cemetery District experienced significant internal conflicts that raised concerns about its governance and operations, including:

- During board meetings, members of the public expressed concerns regarding the district's management, including allegations of excessive spending, ongoing litigation, and poor conditions of the grounds. Despite the concerns from the public, the general manager continued to have the support of a majority of the board;
- Since 2016, the district has conducted eight disinterments to address incorrect burials, including two in March 2021, which led to multiple lawsuits filed by the affected families;
- In May 2025, a board meeting was called to order and adjourned within seconds; and
- Shortly thereafter, the district's insurance company, Golden State Risk Management Authority, warned that it may terminate coverage due to constant litigation unless corrective measures were taken.

Comments

According to the author, "Recent dysfunction and management failures at the Tulare County Public Cemetery District have exposed critical gaps in existing law, leaving the Board of Supervisors without clear authority to address substantial neglect of duty, misconduct, or situations that prevented the board from fulfilling its responsibilities to the community. SB 1115 provides a targeted solution by authorizing Tulare County Supervisors to remove a trustee for specified causes through a resolution, while ensuring due process with proper notice and an opportunity for the trustee to respond."

Stay tombed. Under existing law, public cemetery districts operate as separate local governments entities with a degree of autonomy. However, the governance challenges faced by the Tulare Public Cemetery District highlight limitations in the available governance tools, leaving the Tulare Board of Supervisors with two options to address trustee misconduct: do nothing or remove all the trustees and appoint itself as the cemetery district board. SB 1115 gives the Tulare County Board a third option, remove a trustee individually and then appoint a replacement. Opponents argue SB 1115 sets a precedent for increased county intervention in an appointed-independent special district. However, the board of supervisors already have the authority to select appointees for the board, remove all the trustees en masse, and appoint new trustees. The only difference in the authority granted by SB 1115 is that it allows the trustees to be removed on a one-on-one basis. The bill also authorizes cemetery districts to remove a trustee themselves prior to the county taking action, giving the board of trustees the opportunity to resolve issues

on their own. Does SB 1115 meaningfully undermine the independence of cemetery districts?

Special legislation. The California Constitution prohibits special legislation when a general law can apply (Article IV, §16). SB 1115 finds and declares that legislation that applies only to Tulare County is needed due to the unique circumstances facing the County of Tulare.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/26)

County of Tulare (Source)

Tulare; City of

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/26)

California Special Districts Association

Prepared by: Itzel Vargas / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
5/1/26 13:13:02

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1117
Author: Cervantes (D)
Introduced: 2/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units

SOURCE: California YIMBY

DIGEST: This bill provides that impact fees that are assessed on accessory dwelling units (ADUS) that exceed 750 square feet in size may only be charged on the total square footage that exceeds 750 square feet, not the entirety of the accessory dwelling unit (ADU).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Defines an ADU as an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing primary residence. It must include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-family or multifamily dwelling is or will be situated on.

- 2) Limits development fees that local agencies can apply to ADUs and JADUS in the following ways:
- a) Prohibits local agencies, special districts, and water corporations, from treating an ADU or Junior ADU (JADU) as a new residential use for the purposes of calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, unless the unit is constructed with a new single-family dwelling.
 - b) Prohibits local agencies, special districts, and water corporations from imposing impact fees on an ADU or JADU that contains less than 750 square feet or 500 square feet of interior livable space respectively.
 - c) Provides that for an ADU that exceeds 750 square feet of interior livable space, impact fees shall be charge proportionately in relation to the square footage of the primary dwelling unit.
 - d) Prohibits local agencies, special districts, and water corporations from requiring a separate utility connection or imposing a connection fee or capacity charge on an ADU or JADU that is built within the space of an existing single-family dwelling, or within the space of an existing accessory structure, unless the ADU or JADU is conveyed separate from the existing single-family dwelling.

This bill provides that impact fees that are assessed on ADUS that exceed 750 square feet in size may only be charged on the total square footage that exceeds 750 square feet, not the entirety of the ADU.

Background

ADUs/JADUs. ADUs, also known as mother-in-law units or granny flats, are additional living spaces that have a separate kitchen, bathroom, and exterior access independent of the primary residence; ADUs may be attached or detached from the primary residence. A JADU is a unit of up to 500 square feet within the primary residence. ADU/JADU law has evolved over the years to lower barriers to ADU development which has resulted in a surge in ADUs built in California. SB 1069 (Wieckowski, Chapter 720, Statutes of 2016) and AB 2299 (Bloom, Chapter 735, Statutes of 2016), permitted ADUs by-right on all residentially zoned parcels in the state. By permitting an ADU as a second unit on all single-family lots, these laws effectively doubled their allowed density. According to HCD, between 2016-2023, the number of ADUs permitted annually in the state grew from 1,336 to 26,924, a 20-fold increase. In 2023, ADUs comprised more than 21% of all homes permitted statewide.

Comments

- 1) *Author's Statement.* "California's housing crisis continues to limit homeownership opportunities and increase housing costs. Housing experts estimate a shortage of between 840,000 and 3.5 million housing units in the Golden State. Because they expand housing supply while enabling homeowners to increase the capacity of their homes and build home equity, ADUs are a key component of the state's housing strategy. For many first-time and middle-class homeowners, the ability to build an ADU can build intergenerational housing and wealth. Senate Bill 1117 will help reduce impact fees for homeowners in California by clarifying existing ADU law to ensure local governments assess impact fees only on the portion of an ADU exceeding 750 square feet. By aligning the fee calculations in statute with the intent of the Legislature, the bill promotes consistent statewide implementation, reduces unnecessary cost burdens on homeowners, and supports continued ADU construction as a pathway to increasing sustainable homeownership in California."
- 2) *Impact fees.* Local governments can charge a variety of fees to a development. These fees, commonly known as impact fees or mitigation fees, go toward infrastructure development (such as adding lanes to roads or supporting additional traffic) or other public benefits (such as new parks, schools, or affordable housing). In the wake of the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 and the resulting loss of significant property tax revenue, local governments have also turned to development fees as a means to generate revenue. Given that California cities have tightly restricted funding sources, fees are one of the few ways cities can pay for the indirect costs of growth. The Mitigation Fee Act requires local officials, when establishing, increasing, or imposing a fee as a condition of approving a development project, to make a number of determinations including to: identify the purpose of the fee; identify the use of the fee, including the public facilities that the fee will finance; determine a reasonable relationship between the use of the fee and the development; and determine a reasonable relationship between the public facility's need and the development. Local agencies must also produce an annual report on developer and other fees.
- 3) *ADU Impact fee relief.* The state enacted numerous laws over the last decade streamlining local development approvals for a variety of housing types, including ADUS, duplexes and large affordable developments. None of the various housing streamlining laws can match the 20-fold increase achieved by

the recent reforms to ADU Law noted in the background. One notable difference between ADUs and other streamlining laws is that ADUs are entirely exempt from local impact fees if they are less than 750 square feet in size. ADUs that exceed 750 square feet are charged a reduced fee that is calculated based in proportion to the size of the primary dwelling unit local on the same parcel. For example, an ADU that will be half the size of the primary dwelling unit will have an impact fee rate that is 1/2 the normal impact fee that would be charged for a new primary dwelling built on the same site.

- 4) *Deductions.* This bill builds on the existing proportionality calculation and allows developers that build larger ADUs to deduct 750 square feet from the chargeable size of the ADU when they calculate the impact fee. Under existing law, a 1,000 square foot ADU is charged a proportionally reduced rate on the full 1,000 square feet of the ADU. Under this bill, the same 1,000 square foot ADU will only pay the proportionally reduced rate on 250 square feet. Much as a tax deduction can reduce an individual's total taxable income, this bill effectively reduces the total "chargeable" square feet of an ADU that can be assessed by a local government.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

California YIMBY (Sponsor)

Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles

Apartment Association of Orange County

Berkeley Property Owner's Association

California Apartment Association

California Rental Housing Association

Circulate Planning & Policy

Dirt to Keys

East Bay for Everyone

East Bay Leadership Council

East Bay Rental Housing Association

Eden Housing

Elevate California

Holos Communities

Nor Cal Rental Property Association

North Valley Property Owners Association

Santa Barbara Apartment Association, INC. DbA Santa Barbara Rental Property Association

Small Property Owners of San Francisco Institute
South Pasadena Residents for Responsible Growth
Southern California Rental Housing Association
Student Homes Coalition
The Two Hundred for Homeownership
Unidosus
Zillow Group

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

California Association of Recreation & Park Districts
California Fire Chiefs Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
City of Belmont
City of Foster City
City of Glendora
City of LA Verne
City of Paramount
City of Pico Rivera
City of Redwood City
Equitable Land Use Alliance
Families and Homes San Jose
Fire Districts Association of California
League of California Cities
Neighbors for a Better San Diego
Rural County Representatives of California
South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Prepared by: Hank Brady / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
5/5/26 15:55:43

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1143
Author: Caballero (D), et al.
Amended: 4/14/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SUBJECT: Children’s advocacy centers: recordings

SOURCE: County Welfare Directors Association

DIGEST: This bill clarifies that children’s advocacy centers must release recordings of forensic interviews taken in the course of an investigation to child welfare agencies authorized to investigate child abuse and neglect.

Senate Floor Amendments of 4/14/26 permit, rather than require, a children’s advocacy center or other identified multidisciplinary team member to share recordings of forensic interviews with child welfare agencies.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Defines “child abuse or neglect” to include physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse, neglect, the willful harming or injuring of a child, or the endangering of the person or health of a child, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury against a child. (Penal (Pen.) Code, §11165.6.)
- 2) Allows that each county may use a children’s advocacy center to implement a coordinated multidisciplinary response to investigate reports involving child physical or sexual abuse, exploitation, or maltreatment and sets forth standards that a children’s advocacy center must meet. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4.)

- 3) Requires that the multidisciplinary team at a children's advocacy center include one representative from each of the following disciplines: law enforcement, child protective services, district attorney's offices, medical providers, mental health providers, victim advocates, and in the case of an Indian child, a representative from the child's tribe. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(1).)
- 4) Provides that the files, reports, records, communications, and working papers used or developed in providing services through a children's advocacy center are confidential and not public records. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (d).)
- 5) Authorizes the members of a multidisciplinary team associated with a children's advocacy center, including agency representatives, child forensic interviewers, and other providers at the children's advocacy center, to share with other multidisciplinary team members any information or records concerning the child and family for the sole purpose of facilitating a forensic interview or case discussion or providing services to the child or family. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (e).)
- 6) Requires that the children's advocacy center verify that interviews conducted in the course of investigations are conducted in a forensically sound manner and occur in a child-focused setting designed to provide a safe, comfortable, and dedicated place for children and families. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(8).)
- 7) Requires that a children's advocacy center or other identified multidisciplinary team member custodian ensure that all recordings of child forensic interviews be released only in response to a court order with a protective order governing the use of the recording. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(A)(i)-(vi).)
- 8) Provides that notwithstanding the above, the children's advocacy center or other identified multidisciplinary team member custodian shall release or consent to the release or use of any recording, upon request, to any of the following:
 - a) Law enforcement agencies authorized to investigate child abuse, or agencies authorized to prosecute juvenile or criminal conduct described in the forensic interview.
 - b) County counsel evaluating an allegation of child abuse. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(B)(i)-(ii).)
- 9) Recognizes the inherent privacy interest that a child has with respect to the child's recorded voice and image when describing highly sensitive details of abuse or neglect and provides that all recordings of child forensic interviews are

not subject to a Public Records Act Request and are exempt from any such request. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(E)(i).)

- 10) Provides that the recording shall not become a public record in any legal proceeding. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(E)(ii).)
- 11) Requires a court to order the recording be sealed and preserved at the conclusion of a criminal proceeding. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(E)(iii).)
- 12) Provides that as used in this bill “recording” includes audio, video, digital, or any other manner in which the child’s voice or likeness is memorialized. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (g).)

This bill requires that a children’s advocacy center or other identified multidisciplinary team member custodian release or consent to the release or use of any recording of a forensic interview, upon request, to child welfare agencies authorized to investigate child abuse and neglect, in addition to the above agencies.

Background

Existing law allows each county to use children’s advocacy centers to coordinate a multidisciplinary response to investigate reports involving child physical or sexual abuse, exploitation, or maltreatment. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4.) The multidisciplinary team at a children’s advocacy center must include one representative from each of the following disciplines: law enforcement, child protective services, district attorney’s offices, medical providers, mental health providers, victim advocates, and in the case of an Indian child, a representative from the child’s tribe. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(1).)

Children’s advocacy center teams may conduct forensic interviews in the course of their investigations. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4 (b)(8).) These interviews can be recorded for investigative purposes so they can be referenced later. Because interviews are recorded, the child victim generally only needs to be interviewed once about their abuse, which is intended to limit the risk of re-traumatization from repeated questioning.

Existing law provides that such recordings are generally confidential and may only be shared pursuant to a court order. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(A).) However, existing law further states that the children’s advocacy center or its members may share any information or records concerning the child and family

with members of the center's multidisciplinary team, but only for the purposes of facilitating a forensic interview, case discussion, or providing services to the child or family. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (e).) Existing law also provides that children's advocacy centers or their team member custodian of the recording must release or consent to the release or use of any recording, upon request, to law enforcement agencies authorized to investigate child abuse, agencies authorized to prosecute juvenile or criminal conduct described in the forensic interview, or county counsel evaluating an allegation of child abuse. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(B)(i)-(ii).)

Existing law is ambiguous as to whether recordings of forensic interviews may be shared with child welfare agencies, for two reasons. First, it is not clear whether "county counsel evaluating an allegation of child abuse" encompasses child welfare agencies. (Pen. Code, § 11166.4, subd. (b)(9)(B)(ii).) "County counsel" might include counsel employed at a child welfare agency. Second, it is not clear whether the recordings qualify as "information or records" as described in Penal Code section 11166.4, subdivision (e), which may be shared with all members of the multidisciplinary team.

Proponents of this bill assert that some counties interpret existing law to mean the recordings cannot be shared with anyone other than those specifically enumerated in Penal Code section 11166.4, subdivision (b)(9)(B), namely, law enforcement and county counsel. This interpretation precludes sharing the recordings with county welfare agency staff such as social workers, even though they are members of a center's multidisciplinary team. As a result, social workers at child welfare agencies may sometimes be limited to relying on written notes and reports, rather than actual video, when investigating claims of abuse and neglect.

This bill attempts to remedy this ambiguity by clarifying that children's advocacy centers must release such interview recordings to child welfare agencies authorized to investigate child abuse and neglect, upon request.

Notably, there is no specified limitation on the uses of these recordings for those agencies specifically enumerated in Penal Code section 11166.4, subdivision (b)(9)(B). By contrast, under the current scheme, children's advocacy centers may share "any information or records" with any member of the multidisciplinary team, but only for the purpose of conducting a forensic interview, staff discussion, or providing services to the child and their family. This bill would allow child welfare agency staff, in addition to law enforcement and county counsel, to use the interview recordings for other purposes. Such purposes may include, for example,

conducting dependency investigations and making recommendations regarding visitation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/14/26)

County Welfare Directors Association (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT: According to County Welfare Directors Association:

California established the framework for coordinated child abuse investigations through AB 2741 (2020), which authorized counties to utilize children's advocacy centers (CACs) to coordinate multidisciplinary responses to cases involving child abuse, exploitation, or maltreatment. These centers bring together professionals from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, medical providers, mental health professionals, and victim advocates to ensure investigations are conducted in a trauma-informed, child-focused environment. Subsequent legislation, SB 603 (2023), further strengthened the role of CACs and established detailed protocols governing the release and protection of forensic interview recordings.

Unfortunately, child welfare agencies were not explicitly listed among the entities authorized to receive recordings of child forensic interviews although the child welfare social worker is a member of the multi-disciplinary team. While social workers are typically at the forensic interview conducted by the CAC, there are times when they may need to be absent for emergency calls or court hearings. In practice, this means that county social workers responsible for investigating allegations of abuse or neglect may have access only to written summaries or notes rather than the recordings themselves. When reviewing only a transcript of the interview, the social worker may miss or misunderstand tone of voice or other non-verbal cues, leading to the need for a child to be reinterviewed by the social worker if they cannot view the video recording.

By clarifying that child welfare agencies can access these recordings, SB 1143 advances the collaborative, multidisciplinary approach California has built to respond to child abuse. This bill ensures that all appropriate investigative partners have the tools necessary to fully evaluate allegations while maintaining strong privacy protections for child victims. This change will support more informed investigations, improve coordination among agencies, and reduce the likelihood that children must repeat traumatic experiences during the investigative process.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION: The California District Attorneys Association writes:

MDIC interviews are a critical part of investigating and prosecuting child abuse cases. Criminal investigation and prosecution of such serious crimes involving some of our most vulnerable victims often requires a significant amount of confidentiality, case building, and interagency cooperation. Often the suspects and defendants are the caregivers or guardians of the children, which can create tension between a welfare agency's goals of reunification and continuity of care and law enforcement's concern for the child's and public's safety.

An alternative approach would be to give the MDIC custodian the discretion to release MDIC recordings to child welfare agencies if it would not impact an ongoing criminal investigation or case or endanger the safety of the child. This would appropriately expand the scope of existing 11166.4, subdivision (e) which currently allows for discretionary disclosure only between MDIC team members.

Prepared by: Marshal Lawler / PUB. S. /
5/1/26 13:13:03

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1154
Author: Reyes (D)
Introduced: 2/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-2, 4/8/26
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Choi

SUBJECT: Public contracts: best value procurement: community college districts

SOURCE: San Bernardino Community College District

DIGEST: This bill authorizes community college districts to use the best value procurement method for public works projects over \$1 million until December 31, 2030, establishes related procedural requirements, and requires participating districts to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2030.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires school districts and community college districts to competitively bid contracts for equipment, materials, or supplies exceeding \$50,000 and award to the lowest responsible bidder, or reject all bids.
- 2) Authorizes school districts, until December 31, 2030, to use the best value procurement method for public works projects exceeding \$1 million.
- 3) Permanently authorizes the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to use best value procurement.
- 4) Requires school districts using best value procurement under the statewide pilot to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2030.

- 5) Allows other public entities, including the University of California (UC), to use best value procurement methods.

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a community college district to use the best value procurement method for public works projects exceeding \$1 million until December 31, 2030.
- 2) Requires community college districts using this method to adopt and publish procedures and guidelines for evaluating bidder qualifications that ensure a fair and impartial process.
- 3) Requires contracts to be awarded to the bidder representing the best value, or else all bids must be rejected.
- 4) Establishes procedural requirements for bid solicitations, evaluation criteria, and selection processes consistent with existing best value statutes applicable to school districts.
- 5) Requires community college districts using best value procurement to submit a report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2030.
- 6) Repeals these provisions on January 1, 2031.

Comments

- 1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, “California’s Community College Districts play a critical role in preparing our workforce, supporting economic mobility, and serving millions of students across the state. The quality, safety, and functionality of campus facilities directly impact student learning, program access, and overall student success. Unfortunately, when it comes to delivering major construction projects, community colleges are held to a procurement standard that limits their ability to select contractors based on overall quality and long-term value.

SB 1154 addresses this issue by allowing community college districts to use a best value procurement method for public works projects exceeding one million dollars, allowing contracts to be awarded based on a combination of price and objective qualitative criteria, not simply the lowest bid. This grants them with

same flexibility already provided to K–12 school districts, the University of California, and the California State University.

Best value procurement helps ensure that projects are completed on time, built to high standards, and designed to support long-term functionality. By allowing districts to evaluate contractor experience, safety records, technical expertise, and life-cycle costs, SB 1154 promotes durable, high-quality facilities that enhance learning environments and support innovative instruction. These projects are essential to preparing students for transfer, career pathways, and participation in California’s evolving workforce and will ensure we are setting up our infrastructure for their long-term success.”

- 2) *Aligning K–14 procurement authority.* With the enactment of AB 361 (Schultz, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2025), school districts now have statewide authority, on a pilot basis, to use best value procurement, while LAUSD has permanent authority. Community college districts remain outside this framework despite managing significant capital outlay programs. This bill brings community college districts into alignment with the K-12 system, creating a more consistent procurement structure across publicly funded education segments.
- 3) *Revisiting the “lowest responsible bidder” model.* California’s traditional procurement model emphasizes awarding contracts based on the lowest responsible bid. While straightforward, this approach can undervalue contractor experience, safety records, and demonstrated ability to deliver projects on time and within budget. Best value procurement reflects a broader definition of value that incorporates qualitative factors alongside cost. This bill extends that policy shift to community college districts, raising similar questions considered in prior legislation: whether upfront cost savings should continue to outweigh long-term project performance.
- 4) *Evidence from K-12 and higher education entities.* The Legislature has already authorized best value procurement for several entities, including LAUSD and the UC. Evaluations of LAUSD’s use of best value procurement have found reductions in change orders, project delays, and claims. These findings suggest that incorporating non-cost factors into procurement decisions can produce more predictable project outcomes. Extending this authority to community college districts allows the state to test whether these benefits translate to a different segment of the education system with its own governance structures and project delivery needs.

- 5) *Guardrails and accountability.* Consistent with the K-12 pilot, this bill includes procedural safeguards to promote fairness and transparency, including requirements for published evaluation criteria and formal bid processes. It also requires community college districts to report to the Legislature on their use of best value procurement by January 1, 2030. These reporting requirements will provide important data to assess whether the method improves project delivery and cost outcomes in the community college context.
- 6) *A parallel pilot structure.* By aligning the sunset date (January 1, 2031) and reporting deadline (January 1, 2030) with the K-12 best value pilot, this bill creates an opportunity for the Legislature to evaluate procurement outcomes across both systems simultaneously. This parallel structure may support a more comprehensive statewide assessment of best value procurement and inform future decisions about whether to expand, modify, or make permanent these authorities.
- 7) *Capacity and implementation considerations.* Best value procurement requires more administrative capacity than traditional low-bid contracting, including the ability to design evaluation criteria, review qualifications, and conduct structured scoring processes. While some community college districts, particularly larger ones, may be well-positioned to implement these requirements, smaller districts may face challenges. As with the K-12 pilot, the effectiveness of this authority may depend in part on local capacity and the availability of technical assistance or model procurement frameworks.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/8/26)

San Bernardino Community College District (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/8/26)

Associated General Contractors

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
4/10/26 12:30:55

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1172
Author: Hurtado (D)
Amended: 4/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/22/26
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SUBJECT: Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law: location of transaction: genuine human interaction

SOURCE: City of Shafter

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a person from paying compensation to a consultant with respect to a tax sharing agreement that exceeds either 5% of total revenues or \$250,000.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Imposes the sales tax on every retailer engaged in business in this state that sells tangible personal property, and requires them to remit taxes collected from purchasers to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA).
- 2) Provides that unless the person pays the sales tax to the retailer, they are liable for the use tax, which is imposed on any person consuming tangible personal property in the state. The use tax rate is the same rate as the sales tax rate, and

must be remitted on or before the last day of the month following the quarterly period in which the person made the purchase.

- 3) Levies the sales and use tax at a current rate of 7.25%.
- 4) Allows CDTFA to collect sales taxes from retailers, deposit the state share in the General Fund, and then allocate the local share of the Bradley-Burns sales tax and any district tax to the appropriate jurisdiction.
- 5) Allows cities, counties, and specified special districts to increase the sales and use tax, also known as district or transactions and use taxes.
- 6) States that taxes levied by local governments are either general taxes, subject to majority approval of its voters, or special taxes, subject to 2/3 vote (California Constitution, Article XIII C).
- 7) Specifies the “place of sale” for purposes of the local sales tax. Bradley-Burns sales taxes are allocated to the place of business of the retailer, unless the property sold is delivered by the retailer or his or her agent to an out-of-state destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-state destination, in which case no tax is collected. CDTFA must consider specific characteristics of the retailer to correctly determine the “place of sale,” and therefore correctly allocate the local share of Bradley-Burns sales tax.
- 8) Bans cities and counties from subsidizing the relocation of big box retailers and auto malls within the same market area (SB 114, Torlakson, Chapter 781, Statutes of 2003).
- 9) Prohibits a local agency from entering into an agreement that would result in the payment, transfer, diversion, or rebate of Bradley-Burns local tax proceeds to a retailer if the agreement results in a reduction of revenue that is received by another local agency when the retailer continues to maintain a physical presence and location within that other local agency (SB 533, Pan, Chapter 717, Statutes of 2015).

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits a person from paying compensation to a consultant with respect to a tax sharing agreement that exceeds either 5% of total revenues or \$250,000, whichever is less.

- 2) Provides that a consultant cannot receive compensation more than three years after the effective date or completion of the project phase that directly benefits from the agreement, whichever occurs first.
- 3) Provides that the measure does not apply to local agency staff directly employed by a jurisdiction executing the agreement, or technical consultants providing non-compensated advisory services.
- 4) Provides that the measure only applies to tax sharing agreements entered into on or after January 1, 2027, defines several terms, and applies its provisions to charter cities.

Background

Economic development incentives local agencies offer range in terms of (1) the level of rebate, (2) how long the retailer receives the benefit, (3) the types of jobs or services the retailer must provide in return, and (4) how long the retailer must promise to stay in the jurisdiction. Some agreements offer over half of the Bradley-Burns revenue generated by the facility, for periods of time ranging from one year to 30 years. The City of Fresno has recently entered into long-term agreements with Amazon, Nordstrom, and the Gap, and the City of Dinuba has done the same with Best Buy.

One aspect of the controversy behind these tax sharing agreements is the compensation that consultants who help broker the agreement between the city and the retailer.

In an effort to generate additional public information about agreements between local agencies and retailers to refund Bradley-Burns sales taxes, AB 2854 (Irwin, Chapter 842, Statutes of 2024) required local agencies to publish specified information on tax sharing agreements, and provide it to CDTFA. This includes information on the compensation of all parties to the agreement.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, “SB 1172 is about protecting the integrity of taxpayer dollars and ensuring they are used for their intended purpose, investing back into communities. Local tax-sharing agreements can play an important role in attracting business, but when those agreements lack clear guardrails, they can unintentionally divert public funds away from essential services. In some cases, consultant compensation is tied directly to the amount of tax revenue rebated, creating incentives that prioritize larger or longer revenue diversions rather than sustainable, community-focused

outcomes. This is especially significant for small and rural communities, where limited tax bases mean fewer resources for public safety, infrastructure, and long-term economic stability. Without transparency and accountability, these communities are at greater risk of losing critical funding with little visibility into how decisions are made. SB 1172 addresses this problem by establishing reasonable limits and transparency requirements that ensure public funds are protected and decisions are made in the open. The bill does not eliminate tax-sharing agreements, but it reinforces their purpose by aligning incentives with genuine economic development and requiring clear disclosure of how taxpayer dollars are used. By putting these safeguards in place, SB 1172 strengthens public trust and ensures that economic development tools support, rather than undermine, the long-term health of California's communities, particularly those that can least afford to lose scarce public resources.”

- 2) *Treating the symptom, not the disease.* Both the State Auditor and the Legislative Analyst's Office have suggested replacing situs-based allocation with a population-based allocation system to reduce incentives for local governments to use their economic development powers to promote retail developments. The LAO also suggested that replacing local government sales tax revenues with a different tax base could achieve similar results. Yet, because Section 25.5 of Article XIII of the California Constitution prohibits the Legislature from enacting a statute that would change the method of distributing revenues derived under Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law, as it read on November 3, 2004, except to comply with federal law or to allow the state to participate in an interstate compact, moving away from a situs-based sales tax allocation system would require a Constitutional Amendment or enacting a new local tax scheme. While SB 1172 reduces compensation outside consultants can receive from these agreements, broad tax reform is needed to address the underlying problem.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

City of Shafter (source)

League of California Cities

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
4/28/26 16:33:36

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1173
Author: Caballero (D)
Amended: 3/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SUBJECT: Jury instructions: lesser related offenses

SOURCE: California Attorneys for Criminal Justice; Californians for Safety and Justice

DIGEST: This bill restores a criminal defendant's right to a jury instruction on lesser related offenses to the offense charged, and permits a jury, or a judge if a jury trial is waived, to find the defendant guilty of the lesser offense if certain conditions are met.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that after closing arguments in a criminal trial, the judge may then charge the jury, and shall do so on any points of law pertinent to the issue, if requested by either party. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 1093, subd. (f).)
- 2) Provides that at the beginning of the trial or from time to time during the trial, and without any request from either party, the trial judge may give the jury such instructions on the law applicable to the case as the judge may deem necessary for their guidance on hearing the case. (Ibid.)
- 3) Provides that in any criminal case which is being tried before the court with a jury, all requests for instructions on points of law must be made to the court and all proposed instructions must be delivered to the court before commencement of argument. (Pen. Code, § 1093.5)

- 4) Provides that before the commencement of the argument, the court, on request of counsel, must:
 - a) Decide whether to give, refuse, or modify the proposed instructions.’
 - b) Decide which instructions shall be given in addition to those proposed, if any.
 - c) Advise counsel of all instructions to be given. (Ibid.)
- 5) Provides that if, during the argument, issues are raised which have not been covered by instructions given or refused, the court may, on request of counsel, give additional instructions on the subject matter thereof. (Ibid.)
- 6) Provides that when it appears that the defendant has committed a public offense, or attempted to commit a public offense, and there is reasonable ground of doubt in which of two or more degrees of the crime or attempted crime he is guilty, he can be convicted of the lowest of such degrees only. (Pen. Code, § 1097.)
- 7) Defines a special verdict as that by which the jury finds the facts only, leaving judgment to the court, as specified. (Pen. Code § 1152.)
- 8) Provides that the court must give judgment upon the special verdict as follows:
 - a) If the plea is not guilty, and the facts prove the defendant guilty of the offense charged in the indictment or information, or of any other offense of which he could be convicted under that indictment or information, judgment must be given accordingly. But if otherwise, judgment of acquittal must be given.
 - b) If the plea is a former conviction or acquittal or once in jeopardy of the same offense, the court must give judgment of acquittal or conviction, as the facts prove or fail to prove the former conviction or acquittal or jeopardy. (Pen. Code, § 1155.)
- 9) Provides that whenever a defendant is convicted of a crime or attempt to commit a crime which is distinguished into degrees, the jury, or the court if a jury trial is waived, must find the degree of the crime or attempted crime of which he is guilty. Upon the failure of the jury or the court to so determine, the degree of the crime or attempted crime of which the defendant is guilty, shall be deemed to be of the lesser degree. (Pen. Code, § 1157.)

- 10) Provides that the jury, or the judge if a jury trial is waived, may find the defendant guilty of any offense, the commission of which is necessarily included in that with which he is charged, or of an attempt to commit the offense. (Pen. Code, § 1159.)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that a jury, or a judge if a trial is waived, upon request of a defendant, may find the defendant guilty of a lesser offense, the commission of which is closely related to the offense with which the defendant is charged, if the court determines that all of the following conditions are met:
 - a) The defendant relies on a theory of defense that is consistent with a conviction for the lesser offense.
 - b) The evidence of the lesser offense is relevant to and admitted for the purpose of establishing whether the defendant is guilty of the charged offense.
 - c) A basis exists, other than an unexplainable rejection of prosecution evidence, on which the jury could find the offense to be less than that charged.
- 2) States that it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting the provision above to restore the right of a defendant to receive jury instructions on lesser related offenses as originally guaranteed by the California Supreme Court in *People v. Geiger* (1984) 35 Cal.3d.510.

Comments

California law has long provided that a trial court must instruct a criminal jury on any lesser included offense if there is substantial evidence only the lesser crime was committed. In 1984, however, the California Supreme Court in *People v. Geiger* (1984) 35 Cal.3d 510 ruled that in certain circumstances, and only upon the request of the defendant, the defendant also has a right to have the jury instructed on lesser related offenses that bear some conceptual and evidentiary relationship to the greater offense. The *Geiger* Court rooted its reasoning in the constitutional principles requiring instruction on lesser included offenses:

The necessity for instructions on lesser offenses is founded in the defendant's 'constitutional right to have the jury determine every material issue presented by the evidence.' [...] The requirement of instructions on lesser included offenses is based on the elementary principle that the court should instruct the jury on every material question. The state has no

interest in a defendant obtaining an acquittal where he is innocent of the primary offense charged but guilty of a necessarily included offense. Nor has the state any legitimate interest in obtaining a conviction of the offense charged where the jury entertains a reasonable doubt of guilt of the charged offense but returns a verdict of guilty of that offense solely because the jury is unwilling to acquit where it is satisfied that the defendant has been guilty of wrongful conduct constituting a necessarily included offense. Likewise, a defendant has no legitimate interest in compelling the jury to adopt an all or nothing approach to the issue of guilt.

As such, the Court in *Geiger* opined that “it would be fundamentally unfair to deny the defendant the right to have the court or jury consider the ‘third option’ of convicting the defendant of the related offense,” and that the prosecution would also benefit because “some guilty defendants who would otherwise go free will be punished for a crime which they committed even though it was overlooked by a prosecutor or was not charged because the prosecutor overestimated the strength of the Peoples’ evidence.”

Reasoning that these considerations of due process, fairness, and accuracy should apply to lesser related offenses with equal force, the Court held that, upon the defendant’s request, a trial court must instruct a jury on lesser related offenses, but only when three prerequisites are met. First, there must be some basis, other than an unexplainable rejection of the prosecution evidence on which the jury could find the offense to be less than that charged. Second, although some evidence offered by the prosecution or the defendant may indicate that the defendant committed a crime other than that charged, instructions regarding that crime need not be given “unless the evidence is also relevant to and admitted for the purpose of establishing whether the defendant is guilty of the charged offense.” Finally, the instructions must be justified by the defendant’s reliance on a theory of defense that would be consistent with a conviction for a related offense. That is, if the defense was predicated on a complete denial of criminal culpability, or mistaken identity, a lesser related offense instruction was unnecessary.

A California criminal defendant’s right to have the jury instructed on lesser related offenses lasted until the California Supreme Court overruled its decision in *Geiger* when it handed down *People v. Birks* (1998) 19 Cal.4th 108. In *Birks*, the Court held that a defendant is not entitled to jury instructions on lesser related offenses as a matter of due process, even if he or she requests the instruction and it would have been supported by substantial evidence, and courts may not instruct concerning an uncharged lesser related crimes unless agreed to by both parties. The Court

reasoned that “the Geiger rule contravenes the principle of mutual fairness by giving the defendant substantially greater rights either to require, or to prevent, the consideration of lesser nonincluded offenses than are accorded to the People, the party specifically responsible for determining the charges,” and, moreover “invites the jury to convict the defendant of a crime that no party may have attempted to establish beyond a reasonable doubt.” The Court also suggested that the Geiger rule may raise separation of powers issues under Article 3 of the California Constitution, but refrained from resolving such issues in its opinion.

This bill, reinstating the *Geiger* rule, additionally provides that a jury, or a judge if a jury trial is waived, upon request of the defendant, may find the defendant guilty of a lesser offense, the commission of which is closely related to the offense with which the defendant is charged. Per the *Geiger* ruling, the bill, prior to an instruction on a lesser related offense, requires the court to determine that all of the following conditions have been met:

- The defendant relies on a theory of defense that is consistent with a conviction for the lesser offense.
- The evidence of the lesser offense is relevant to and admitted for the purpose of establishing whether the defendant is guilty of the charged offense.
- A basis exists, other than an unexplainable rejection of prosecution evidence, on which the jury could find the offense to be less than that charged.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/14/26)

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (co-source)

Californians for Safety and Justice (co-source)

ACLU California Action

California Public Defenders Association

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice

Courage California

Drug Policy Alliance

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Felony Murder Elimination Project

Justice2Jobs Coalition

La Defensa

San Francisco Public Defender

Silicon Valley De-Bug
Smart Justice California
The W. Haywood Burns Institute

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/14/26)

California District Attorneys Association

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
4/15/26 19:55:20

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1177
Author: Cortese (D)
Introduced: 2/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 9-3, 4/7/26

AYES: Cortese, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Wiener

NOES: Strickland, Seyarto, Valladares

NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: High-Speed Rail Authority: project update report

SOURCE: U.S. High Speed Rail Association

DIGEST: This bill requires the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) biennial project update report (PUR) to include certain additional information about the budget, schedule, and planning of the high-speed rail project.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Creates the Authority in the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). (Public Utilities Code (PUC) § 185020)
- 2) Requires the Authority to direct the development and implementation of an intercity high-speed rail service. (PUC § 185030)
- 3) Requires the Authority to submit to the Legislature no later than March 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter, a PUR containing specified information that includes at a minimum, a program wide summary, as well as details by project

segment, including information about the progress of the project, budget projections, expenditures, and project schedule. (PUC § 185033.5)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the biennial PUR, in addition to existing statutory requirements, to include:
 - a) An explanation of the assumptions used for financing methods calculations;
 - b) A comparison of the current and projected work schedule to projected schedules in previous PURs;
 - c) An analysis of potential ancillary revenue sources; and,
 - d) A comparison and benchmarking of cost, scope, and timeline to international high-speed rail projects.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, “The High-Speed Rail Project has been a decades-long investment in our transit system, our environment, and our economy. It is essential that we maintain transparency into the project’s cost, scope, and progress. The High-Speed Rail PUR is published and submitted to the Legislature every two years and provides an important record of the Authority’s progress and their projections for the future. As the Authority completes its comprehensive review of the Project’s design criteria, scope, cost, procurement strategy, ridership, and schedule, SB 1177 will ensure that critical project information about the Projects implementation continues to be reported to the Legislature and made available to the public.”
- 2) *California High-Speed Rail.* Development of high-speed rail in California began nearly 30 years ago with the creatin of the Authority. However, the project did not gain steam until 2008 when voters approved Proposition 1A, the Safe, Reliable, High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act. This was a \$9.95 billion general obligation bond to fund the proposed California high-speed rail project and related improvements. As envisioned at the time of the ballot measure, the project was to consist of an 800-mile dedicated high-speed passenger rail system capable of speeds up to 220 miles per hour, initially serving the major metropolitan market of San Francisco through the Central Valley into

Los Angeles and Anaheim (Phase I), with service eventually extending to Sacramento, the Inland Empire, and San Diego (Phase II).

In July 2012, the Legislature approved SB 1029 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 152, Statutes of 2012), that appropriated nearly \$8 billion in federal and state funds to begin the construction between Madera and Bakersfield. Further, the 2014-15 state budget trailer bill SB 862 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014), continuously appropriated 25% of the revenues derived from the state's Cap-and-Trade program to the project. Additionally, the Legislature approved SB 198 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 71, Statutes of 2022), which required the Authority to focus its resources on finishing a usable high-speed segment from Merced to Bakersfield. Finally, in 2025, through AB 1207 (Irwin, Chapter 117, Statutes of 2025) and SB 840 (Limon and McGuire, Chapter 121, Statutes of 2025), the Legislature extended the Cap-and-Trade program through 2045, renaming it Cap-and-Invest. SB 840 also allocated \$1 billion of Cap-and-Invest funds annually to the Authority through 2045.

- 3) *Financial constraints.* Despite the large level of investment in high-speed rail over the past years, the project is still vastly short of its funding needs. When Proposition 1A bonds were approved in 2008, the cost for the project was estimated at \$45 billion, to be paid for by a mix of state bonds, federal grants, and private investments. Since then, the cost of the project has risen markedly, with the 2026 Draft Business Plan providing a price estimate for Phase I at just shy of \$128 billion. The same plan places the projected cost for the Merced-Bakersfield segment at \$34.8 billion. These estimates also include a number of cost-saving measures identified during a new "bottom-up cost review" that adjusted the Authority's overall financing assumptions. This review further included explicit and implicit scope changes to the project, such as moving the Merced and Bakersfield stations outside of the downtown area and reducing the amount of dual-track rail to 20 miles across the entire segment. Finally, these changes also come on the heels of the Authority dropping efforts to retain \$4 billion in disputed federal grant funds, effectively relinquishing the money.

Despite these challenges, the Authority projects that they currently have the funds to complete the Merced-Bakersfield segment. However, this funding does not mean that they have cash on hand to align with planned construction schedules. The Authority's most recent financial outlook assumes that they are able to secure these near-term funds through financing based on their ongoing

Cap-and-Invest appropriations. Additionally, this outlook requires that the Legislature approves the aforementioned scope changes to the plan that is currently outlined in SB 198. As noted, these changes include controversial decisions, including relocating the Merced station outside of the downtown area.

- 4) *Required reporting.* As part of its reporting and transparency requirements, the Authority is required to prepare, publish, and adopt a Business Plan every even numbered year outlining key required elements of the high-speed rail project. Those elements include project development information, including a description of the type of service being developed; the timing and sequencing of project phases and segments; estimated capital costs; ridership estimates; and a discussion of reasonable foreseeable risks and strategies to manage those risks. Additionally, the Business Plan is required to contain estimates and descriptions of the total anticipated federal, state, local, and other funds the Authority intends to access for the construction and operation of the system.

In addition to the Business Plan, the Authority is also required to prepare a PUR by March 1 of every odd numbered year that provides certain updated information including a program wide summary, as well as details by project segment, including information about the progress of the project, budget projections, expenditures, and project schedule.

- 5) *This bill requires more reporting consistency.* Both the Business Plan and PUR are required to contain specific, statutorily outlined information about the high-speed rail project. However, these reports commonly contain additional information beyond these requirements. This information is often helpful in providing additional context about the overall state and trajectory of the project, as well as to help track progress on the project over time. This bill proposes to mandate the inclusion of this additional information in future PURs. For example, recent reports have either directly contained or referred to other public documents that contain information about many of the items this bill would mandate. These include the financing assumptions made by the Authority in preparing its budget numbers, an analysis on potential ancillary revenue sources for the project, and certain types of comparisons to other international high-speed rail projects. Thus, this bill would help provide a consistency in the type of information provided that would enable better tracking of how the project has evolved over time.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/20/26)

U.S. High Speed Rail Association (Source)

Climate Action California

Transbay Coalition

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/20/26)

City of Burbank

Prepared by: Samuel Myers / TRANS. / (916) 651-4879

4/21/26 16:19:40

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1193
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 4/30/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/29/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SUBJECT: Discretionary funds: County of Alameda

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill places limitations on the use of discretionary funds by members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Creates counties as general purpose governments that provide a variety of public goods and services to their residents.
- 2) Provides that, unless otherwise specified in a charter, county boards of supervisors have five members. These supervisors can perform acts necessary to fully discharge their duties to supervise county governance. The board supervises the official conduct of all county officers, particularly as their activities pertain to the management and disbursement of public funds. The board of supervisors is also vested with the constitutional authority to provide for the number, compensation, tenure, and appointment of employees.
- 3) Allows the board of supervisors can spend money from the general fund of the county to establish county programs or to fund other programs necessary to meet the social needs of the county, including health, law enforcement, public safety, and education, among others.

- 4) Allows the board of supervisors to contract with other public agencies, private agencies, or individuals to operate such programs if the board of supervisors determines doing so will serve public purposes.

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits the Alameda County Board of Supervisors from awarding discretionary funds to a community organization, nonprofit organization, or private entity unless the board approves the award by a majority vote, and the award does both the following:
 - a) Includes a description of how the award provides resources of communitywide significance for the district that the member of the board requesting the funds represents.
 - b) Identifies the public purpose that the award will serve.
- 2) Prohibits the board from:
 - a) Appropriating discretionary funds for an award that is not for a public purpose.
 - b) Appropriating any funds in a way that allows a member, or less than a majority, of the board to appropriate funds. Any awards to community organizations, nonprofit organizations, and private entities shall be made by a majority of the board and identify the specific entity that is being awarded the funds.
- 3) Requires the board to post on its internet website a log of appropriated discretionary funds at the end of each quarter, including all of the following:
 - a) The planned and actual costs of the program or project, including the indirect costs, that the discretionary funds cover.
 - b) The spending timeline of those funds.
 - c) The purpose of program funding.
 - d) The eligibility requirements to receive funding.

- e) Total dollars awarded to the entity that is contracted with the county.
 - f) The information required in bullet (1).
 - g) Conflict of interest statements for supervisors or county staff that participated in the awarding of the funds.
 - h) A link to an internet website describing the process for receiving and reviewing whistle blower complaints.
- 4) Prohibits, within 90 days before an election, a member of the board running for election from taking any action related to discretionary funds, including:
- a) Placing an agenda item seeking approval to appropriate discretionary funds on the agenda for a meeting of the board.
 - b) Announcing or participating in a press release announcing the awarding of discretionary funds previously approved by the board.
 - c) Participating in or making a ceremonial presentation awarding previously approved discretionary funds. However, members of the board can attend events hosted by entities that received discretionary funds, if the event is not directly held in the supervisor's honor.
- 5) Provides that, notwithstanding bullet (4), members of the board may attend events hosted by entities who received discretionary funds so long as the event is not directly held in the supervisor's honor, and vote on discretionary fund awards that benefit the county as a whole or another district.
- 6) Provides that discretionary funds shall not be awarded at a special meeting or on the consent calendar.
- 7) Provides that it does not limit the existing authority of the board to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations beyond the minimum requirements outlined in the measure.
- 8) Defines "discretionary funds" to mean funds that a member of the board, or less than a majority of the board, requests the board to award to community organizations, nonprofit organizations, and private entities in their supervisorial district, but does not include awards to Alameda Health System.

- 9) Defines “public purpose” to mean the use of funds to further a program that provides health and human services, education, homelessness services, cultural resources, or other services to residents of a supervisorial district. This does not include awards to benefit an entity that does not provide health and human services, education, homelessness services, cultural resources, or other services to residents of a supervisorial district. It also does not include awards that fund travel and related expenses, marketing or economic development programs, or direct resources to a single private entity that does not provide any of the services described above.

Background

In April 2021, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted a policy that allowed each Supervisor to determine how to award COVID-19 relief funding in their respective districts. Each of the five districts received an initial \$10 million allocation, to which the Board added another \$3 million in June 2023, for a total of \$65 million. Once each supervisor decided how to prioritize these funds, the board voted to approve the disbursement of funds. Starting in late 2023, news surfaced that an Orange County Supervisor awarded COVID-19 relief funding to an organization run by his daughter without disclosing the connection to the public. After public scrutiny over the contracts, news surfaced the organization was also behind on required audits. Despite these concerns, the Supervisor continued to award funding to the organization. After a federal investigation, the Supervisor was sentenced to five years in federal prison for fraud. In response, the Legislature enacted AB 2946 (Valencia, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2024), which prohibits a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors from awarding district discretionary funds to a community or nonprofit organization unless they are approved by a majority vote of the board, requires the board to report discretionary funding decisions on its website, and prohibits members of the board from taking certain actions related to district discretionary funds within 90 days before an election.

A 2017 Alameda County Grand Jury Report found that a county employee who played a role in county funding decisions was also co-founder of an organization called Oakland and World Enterprises, Inc that received funds from the County. According to the Grand Jury, this was a conflict of interest and constituted a failure of good governance practices. The Grand Jury also found that Alameda County’s process for approving discretionary funds resulted in large amounts of money going to nonprofits without a competitive process or written contracts and the

county lacked oversight over these funds. The County disputed many of the Grand Jury's findings.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, "SB 1193 will ensure the integrity and transparency of district discretionary spending in Alameda County. Currently, Alameda County's policy on district discretionary spending lacks guardrails that serve the best interests of the public for certifying that programs are fulfilling their contractual obligations. This bill will prevent future misuse of taxpayer dollars by establishing a framework for how Alameda County Board of Supervisors can approve and appropriate district discretionary funds. SB 1193 will combine disclosure, participation, and enhanced oversight to promote better trust and performance for Alameda County."

Home rule. Decisions about how local agencies spend their funds are often left up to elected representatives. SB 1193 takes the model of AB 2946 and expands it in a few significant ways. First, it also applies to discretionary funds awarded by the entire board, and to for-profit entities. Second, it includes more reporting requirements on discretionary awards. Third, it makes it harder for these decisions to be made because it prohibits their consideration from the consent calendar and special meetings. Extending the SB 2946 model to any funds the county board appropriates to community organizations, nonprofit organizations, and private entities would appear to include everything from a relatively small grant for a nonprofit to provide services to vulnerable populations to a multimillion construction contract awarded to a private construction firm. According to the County of Alameda, it contracted for nearly \$1 billion in services across 278 community-based organizations in 2025-26. While the Alameda County Grand Jury report from 2016 suggests that greater oversight over discretionary funds may be necessary, is that sufficient to justify significantly higher standards for Alameda County to award discretionary funds than the rest of the state given that it could slow down decision making by adding steps to the funding process?

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/1/26)

Retired Public Employees Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/1/26)

David Haubert - First District Supervisor, Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Afghan Elderly Association
County of Alameda
Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association
One Nation Dream Makers
School of Imagination & Happy Talkers
Tri-valley Seek and Save
One Individual

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
5/1/26 13:13:04

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1211
Author: Gonzalez (D)
Amended: 4/6/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SUBJECT: Criminal procedure: postconviction investigation

SOURCE: Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: This bill outlines parameters for district attorney offices that accept cases for postconviction review related to innocence claims and enables those offices to have access to materials that they would not otherwise have access to because the case is closed.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides, in any case where a person has been arrested and no accusatory pleading has been filed, the person arrested may petition the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the offense to destroy its records of the arrest. Requires a copy of the petition to be served upon the prosecuting attorney of the county or city having jurisdiction over the offense. Requires the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the offense to seal its arrest records and the petition for relief for three years from the date of the arrest and thereafter destroy its arrest records and the petition, upon a determination that the person arrested is factually innocent. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 851.85, subd. (a).)

- 2) Requires the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the offense to notify the Department of Justice (DOJ), and any law enforcement agency that arrested the petitioner or participated in the arrest of the petitioner for an offense for which the petitioner has been found factually innocent, of the sealing of the arrest records and the reason. Requires DOJ and any law enforcement agency so notified to seal their arrest records and the notice of sealing for three years from the date of the arrest, and thereafter destroy their records of the arrest and the notice of sealing. Requires the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the offense and the DOJ to request the destruction of any records of the arrest which they have given to any local, state, or federal agency or to any other person or entity. Requires each agency, person, or entity within California receiving the request to destroy its records of the arrest and the request, unless otherwise provided in this section. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (a).)
- 3) Provides that after receiving a petition for relief, if the law enforcement agency and prosecuting attorney do not respond to the petition by accepting or denying the petition within 60 days after the running of the relevant statute of limitations or within 60 days after receipt of the petition in cases where the statute of limitations has previously lapsed, the petition is deemed to be denied. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (b).)
- 4) Authorizes any judicial determination of factual innocence to be heard and determined upon declarations, affidavits, police reports, or any other evidence submitted by the parties which is material, relevant, and reliable. Prohibits a finding of factual innocence and an order for the sealing and destruction of records from being made unless the court finds that no reasonable cause exists to believe that the arrestee committed the offense for which the arrest was made. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (b).)
- 5) Provides, in any court hearing to determine the factual innocence of a party, that the initial burden of proof rests with the petitioner to show that no reasonable cause exists to believe that the arrestee committed the offense for which the arrest was made. Provides that the burden of proof shifts to the respondent to show that a reasonable cause exists to believe that the petitioner committed the offense for which the arrest was made if the court finds that this showing of no reasonable cause has been made by the petitioner. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (b).)

- 6) Requires the court, if it finds the arrestee to be factually innocent of the charges for which the arrest was made, to order the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the offense, the DOJ, and any law enforcement agency which arrested the petitioner or participated in the arrest of the petitioner for an offense for which the petitioner has been found factually innocent to seal their records of the arrest and the court order to seal and destroy the records, for three years from the date of the arrest and to then destroy their records of the arrest and the court order to seal and destroy those records. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (b).)
- 7) Authorizes a defendant, in any case where a person has been arrested and an accusatory pleading has been filed, but where no conviction has occurred, to petition the court that dismissed the action for a finding that the defendant is factually innocent of the charges for which the arrest was made, at any time after dismissal of the action. Requires a copy of the petition to be served on the prosecuting attorney in which the accusatory pleading was filed at least 10 days prior to the hearing on the petitioner's factual innocence. Authorizes the prosecuting attorney to present evidence to the court at the hearing. Requires the hearing to be conducted as provided above. Requires the court to grant relief if the court finds the petitioner to be factually innocent of the charges for which the arrest was made. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (c).)
- 8) Authorizes the court, with the concurrence of the prosecuting attorney, to grant the relief described above, in any case where a person has been arrested and an accusatory pleading has been filed, but where no conviction has occurred, at the time of the dismissal of the accusatory pleading. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (d).)
- 9) Authorizes the court, whenever any person is acquitted of a charge and it appears to the judge presiding at the trial at which the acquittal occurred that the defendant was factually innocent of the charge, to grant the relief described above. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (e).)
- 10) Requires the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the offense or court, in any case where a person who has been arrested is granted relief, to issue a written declaration to the arrestee stating that it is the determination of the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the offense or court that the arrestee is factually innocent of the charges for which the person was arrested and that the arrestee is thereby exonerated. Provides that the arrest is

deemed not to have occurred and the person may answer accordingly any question relating to its occurrence. (Pen. Code, § 851.85, subd. (f).)

- 11) Authorizes the judge, whenever a person is acquitted of a charge and it appears to the judge presiding at the trial that the defendant was factually innocent of the charge, to order that the records in the case be sealed, including any record of arrest or detention, upon the written or oral motion of any party in the case or the court, and with notice to all parties to the case. Requires the court, if such an order is made, to give to the defendant a copy of such order and inform the defendant that he may thereafter state that he was not arrested for such charge and that he was found innocent of such charge by the court. (Pen. Code, § 851.85.)
- 12) Requires the judge, whenever a person is convicted of a charge and the conviction is set aside based upon a determination that the person was factually innocent of the charge, to order that the records in the case be sealed, including any record of arrest or detention, upon written or oral motion of any party in the case or the court, and with notice to all parties to the case. Requires the court, if such an order is made, to give the defendant a copy of that order and inform the defendant that the person may state they were not arrested for that charge and that they were not convicted of that charge, and that they were found innocent of that charge by the court. (Pen. Code, § 851.86.)

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes the district attorney to file a notice with the court notifying the court of intent to conduct a postconviction investigation of a claim of factual innocence, if the district attorney accepts a case for postconviction review.
- 2) Provides that “accepts a case for postconviction review” means that a conviction integrity unit or other formally designated unit of a district attorney’s office that is structurally independent from the trial, appellate, and habeas litigation divisions of the office, has formally accepted for internal review a claim of factual innocence at the request or initiation of the petitioner alleging factual innocence.
- 3) Requires the case, upon the filing of a notice described above, to be treated as if it were an open case for the purpose of investigating a claim of factual innocence. Specifies that the district attorney has the power to issue subpoenas

and compel the production of documents and testimony, as provided, and file motions necessary to investigate claims, as provided.

- 4) Requires the district attorney, to the extent the district attorney seeks otherwise confidential materials relating to the petitioner, to obtain a written waiver from the petitioner or the petitioner's counsel before the discovery is authorized.
- 5) Prohibits the authority granted by the provisions of this bill from being exercised if any direct appeal, habeas corpus proceeding, motion for new trial, or other collateral attack concerning the same conviction is pending in any state or federal court, unless the petitioner or petitioner's counsel agrees to the exercise of that authority.

Background

A Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) is a division of a prosecutor's office that works to prevent, identify, and remedy false convictions. They are also called Conviction Review Units (CRUs). Their purpose is described as follows:

“Conviction Integrity Review” or, more expansively “Case Integrity Review” or “Post-Conviction Integrity Review” ... were initially conceived (and as many still exist in their narrowest form) the focus was solely on actual innocence claims, often where the defendant was serving a life sentence or received the death penalty. Many of these earliest units operated internally ... Where a claim was substantiated, the office's response was generally limited to releasing that person from prison, and perhaps providing some monetary relief to the wrongfully convicted individual. (Fair and Just Prosecution, *Conviction Integrity Units and Internal Accountability Mechanisms* (Sept. 2017) <<https://fairandjustprosecution.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/FJPBrief.ConvictionIntegrity.9.25.pdf> .)

Several counties in the state have a district attorney office with a CIU, including Los Angeles, Santa Clara, Sacramento, San Diego, Contra Costa, among others. In 2023, Attorney General (AG) Bonta established the first-ever Post-Conviction Justice Unit (PCJU) within the Department of Justice. (<https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-establishes-first-ever-post-conviction-justice-unit>)

The AG's PCJU requires factual innocence in order to review a conviction. (<https://oag.ca.gov/pcju/conviction>) The PCJU generally requires that a request for conviction review is made in the county where the conviction was obtained. (*Ibid.*) The PCJU will only review cases after a referral has been made by another prosecution office or after a completed application has been submitted if the AG's Office prosecuted the case. (*Ibid.*) The PCJU webpage provides:

PCJU is guided by California Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3.8(f), which states that when a prosecutor knows of new, credible, and material evidence that shows a person was convicted of a crime they did not commit, the prosecutor must cause an investigation to determine whether somebody was wrongfully convicted. With this rule, PCJU will investigate cases where there is credible and material evidence currently available or can be reasonably obtained that shows a convicted person did not commit the crime for which they were convicted. A person does not need to fully investigate their case before applying for conviction review. (*Ibid.*)

This bill is designed to outline parameters for district attorney offices that accept cases for postconviction review and to enable these offices access to materials that they would not otherwise have access to because the case is closed.

First, this bill authorizes the district attorney to file a notice with the court notifying it of intent to conduct a postconviction investigation of a claim of factual innocence. "Accepts a case for postconviction review" is defined as a CIU or other formally designated unit of a district attorney's office that is structurally independent from the trial, appellate, and habeas litigation divisions of the office, that has formally accepted a claim of factual innocence at the request or initiation of the petitioner alleging factual innocence for internal review.

This bill provides that after notice is filed, the case is treated as if it were an open case for the purpose of investigating a claim of factual innocence. This bill specifies that the district attorney has the power to issue subpoenas and compel the production of documents and testimony, file motions necessary to investigate claims, including, but not limited to, motions for personnel records pursuant to *Pitchess v. Superior Court* (1974) 11 Cal.3d 531, motions for court-ordered appointment of counsel, and motions for removal of incarcerated individuals consistent with the district attorney's authority under existing law and consistent with the criminal discovery process.

This bill provides guardrails to protect confidential materials by requiring the district attorney to obtain a written waiver from the petitioner or the petitioner's counsel before discovery is authorized if the district attorney is seeking otherwise confidential materials relating to the petitioner, including, but not limited to, materials contained in the petitioner's central file or institutional records.

Finally, this bill limits its application if any direct appeal, habeas corpus proceeding, motion for new trial, or other collateral attack concerning the same conviction is pending in any state or federal court, unless the petitioner or petitioner's counsel agrees to the exercise of that authority.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:No Local:No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/21/26)

Los Angeles County District Attorney (source)
California Civil Liberties Advocacy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/21/26)

None received

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
4/21/26 9:20:04

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1223
Author: Padilla (D)
Introduced: 2/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, McNerney, Padilla
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Fairs: contracting

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill would prohibit a fair from issuing any invitation to bid or request for proposal, in connection with the awarding of a contract, for services to any person or entity, in a manner that limits the bidding directly or indirectly to any one bidder. The bill would make any contract awarded in violation of this prohibition void.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Fairs & Expositions (F&E) Branch. The F&E provides fiscal and policy oversight of the network of California fairs. Among other things, the F&E determines the requirements for competitive bidding procedures to provide services for fairs. Existing law states the competitive bidding procedures shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a) Requirements for submission of bids and accompanying documentation
 - b) Guidelines for the use of requests for proposals (RFP), invitations to bid, or other methods of bidding

- c) A bid protest procedure
- 2) Prohibits a state agency from drafting an RFP on a public contract for services to be rendered to the state in a way that directly or indirectly limits bidding to any one bidder and states any contract awarded in violation of this requirement shall be rendered void.

This bill states a fair shall not issue any invitation to bid or request for proposal, in connection with the awarding of a contract, for services to any person or entity, in a manner that limits the bidding directly or indirectly to any one bidder and any contract awarded in violation of this shall be void.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

California's fairs are a tradition that brings communities together each year to celebrate and enjoy local agriculture, food, and entertainment. In order for these fairs to operate, they manage millions of dollars in contracts each year to provide rides, food vendors, and other services. Recent investigations have revealed that competitive bidding requirements do not apply to state fairs. Bids are being written in a way that applies only to a single contractor, opening the door to favoritism and corruption. SB 1223 would prohibit a fair from issuing a request for proposal or invitation to bid that is written in a way that applies only to one party, helping to protect competitive bidding in fair contracts.

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
5/5/26 15:55:45

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1228
Author: Rubio (D)
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Advertising displays: exemptions: redevelopment agency projects

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill exempts advertising displays located on former redevelopment agency projects from requirements of the Outdoor Advertising Act (OAA), as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides, under the OAA, for the regulation by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) of an advertising display, as defined, within view of public highways. The OAA regulates the placement of an off-premises advertising display along highways that generally advertises business conducted, or services rendered, or goods produced or sold at a location other than the property where the display is located.
- 2) Provides that the OAA does not apply to an on-premises advertising display.
- 3) Provides that “on-premises advertising displays” means any structure, housing, sign, device, figure, statuary, painting, display, message placard, or other contrivance, or any part thereof, that has been designed, constructed, created,

intended, or engineered to have a useful life of 15 years or more, and intended or used to advertise, or to provide data or information in the nature of advertising, for any of the following purposes:

- a) To designate, identify, or indicate the name or business of the owner or occupant of the premises upon which the advertising display is located.
 - b) To advertise the business conducted, services available or rendered, or the goods produced, sold, or available for sale, upon the property where the advertising display has been lawfully erected.
- 4) Permits, notwithstanding the dissolution of a redevelopment agency (RDA), an advertising display developed as part of and within the boundary limits of a redevelopment agency project, as those boundaries existed on December 29, 2011, to be considered an on-premises advertising display if it meets certain criteria for good cause, and allows those advertising displays to remain until January 1, 2026.
 - 5) Dissolves RDAs and institutes a process for winding down their activities.
 - 6) Requires Caltrans to administer the federal Outdoor Advertising Control program under the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (HBA), which has restrictions similar to California's OAA program, including maximum sign size, sign spacing, location, illumination, and content. If the state fails to properly administer the federal program, the state is subject to potentially lose 10% of its federal highway funding.

This bill:

- 1) Exempts previously erected advertising displays in former redevelopment agency project areas from provisions of OAA, as specified.
- 2) Provides a process for the abovementioned advertising displays to reapply for a new permit with Caltrans, as specified.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of this bill.* According to the author, "As a former local elected official, I understand the importance of outdoor advertisements when it comes to encouraging customers to support local businesses. This bill will help support local businesses by addressing an issue that was inadvertently created when the Legislature eliminated redevelopment agencies. This bill creates a permanent

solution, for a small universe of signs that would otherwise need to be taken down. As local governments continue to face an uncertain fiscal outlook over the next few years, this bill is a reasonable policy to support local businesses and allow revenue generated from local business activities to help local governments keep their programs and services in operation.”

- 2) *OAA: a history.* Since 1933, Caltrans has enforced the OAA which contains comprehensive standards and regulations for outdoor advertising displays (also known as “billboards”). Caltrans regulates the placement of outdoor advertising displays visible from California highways. Outdoor advertising displays require a permit from Caltrans if they are within 660 feet from the edge of the right-of-way and viewed primarily by persons traveling on the main-traveled way of the freeway. In order to enforce the requirements for outdoor advertising under HBA and the State's OAA, Caltrans regularly inspects freeways and highways that are part of the National Highway System.

The OAA regulates the size, illumination, orientation, and location of advertising displays adjacent to and within specified distances of interstate or primary highways, and, with some exceptions, specifically prohibits any advertising display from being placed or maintained on property adjacent to a section of landscaped highway.

The Act generally does not apply to “on premises” advertising displays, which include those advertising the sale of the property upon which it is placed or that advertise the business conducted, services rendered, or goods produced or sold on the property. Local governments regulate on-premises displays, except for certain safety requirements. Lastly, existing law includes a number of exceptions to the OAA and assigns Caltrans the responsibility of reviewing and permitting signs that qualify for these exceptions.

- 3) *The end of Redevelopment.* In 2011, facing a severe budget shortfall, Governor Brown and the Legislature passed and enacted legislation ultimately eliminating RDAs in order to deliver more property taxes to other local agencies. Before the elimination of RDAs, the OAA allowed for advertising signs (billboards) that were located within the boundaries of a redevelopment project area to be considered on-premises sign anywhere within the limits of the project if the project area was contiguous or was separated only by a public highway or public facilities developed or relocated for inclusion in the project, and for a period not to exceed 10 years or the completion of the project, whichever occurred first. The dissolution of RDAs raised questions about how existing signs would be treated by Caltrans because there was no longer an RDA to

negotiate an extension with Caltrans. At the time, Caltrans had issued approximately 95 permits for advertising displays along landscaped freeways in redevelopment project areas throughout the state.

- 4) *The response & continued extensions.* In 2013, the Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed SB 684 (Hill, Chapter 544, Statutes of 2013). The bill provided that an advertising display advertising businesses and activities within the boundary limits of, and as a part of, an individual RDA project, as the project boundaries existed on December 29, 2011, may remain and be considered an on-premises display, until January 1, 2023, if the advertising display met specified criteria. The bill authorized, on and after January 1, 2022, the applicable city, county, or city and county to request from Caltrans an extension for good cause, as specified, beyond January 1, 2023, not to exceed the expiration of the redevelopment project area. The measure required a specific certification from a local agency authorizing the advertising displays, as defined.

At the time, the bill did not authorize any new signage, but instead sought to retain the investment-backed expectations of public and private entities that either own or operate existing signs in former redevelopment areas. Due to the elimination of RDAs, one of the unintended consequences is that the sign agreements, formerly authorized by RDAs, can no longer be extended because there is no RDA to authorize the extension.

In 2023, AB 1175 (Quirk-Silva, Chapter 361, Statutes of 2023), extended the original SB 684 allowance of existing advertising signs (billboards) in RDAs to January 1, 2026. Last year, several measures were introduced in attempt to further extend the sunset. Ultimately, SB 783 (Rubio) of 2025 passed out of the Legislature with the Governor vetoing the bill. SB 783 would have extended the exemption sunset to January 1, 2029.

The provisions specified in this bill propose to exempt currently erected advertising displays in RDAs from OAA requirements / prohibitions. Furthermore, this bill does not contain a sunset provision which has been included in previous proposals. Additionally, this bill contains a provision which will allow for owners of existing outdoor advertising displays in former RDAs to reapply for an outdoor advertising permit with Caltrans with the permit requirements remaining similar to a new outdoor advertising display permit application.

- 5) *HBA.* Approximately every four years the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) audits Caltrans to ensure that it is fulfilling its duties as administrator

of the federal laws and regulations regarding billboards. In its latest report¹ the FHWA was critical of many California advertising displays, specifically calling out displays erected pursuant to the redevelopment agency display exemption as out of compliance. Ultimately, under HBA, a portion of federal highway funds (up to 10%) could be jeopardized through non-compliance of HBA with FHWA potentially “clawing back” a portion of the state’s federal highway funds.

Presently, according to Caltrans, approximately 47 signs (billboards) remain in operation under the previous extensions and possess no data on the revenue generated by these signs. In an era where the existing federal administration is actively seeking areas to reduce expenditures / funding, it may be prudent for stakeholders to engage amongst each other and with the Legislature to identify a remedy that will ultimately bring the state into full compliance with federal requirements.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/28/26)

Hawaiian Gardens Casino

In-n-out Burgers

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/28/26)

California State Outdoor Advertising Association

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
4/28/26 16:33:37

**** END ****

¹ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration – Outdoor Advertising Review, Final Report; June 16, 2022.

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1229
Author: Allen (D)
Amended: 4/9/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 5-2, 4/7/26
AYES: Becker, Allen, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Stern
NOES: Seyarto, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Coastal resources: coastal development permits: disaster exemption

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits the use of the coastal development permit exemption to rebuild a certain structure destroyed by a disaster if the property owner is not the property owner of record prior to the disaster and if certain additional conditions are met, such as being located in an environmentally sensitive area, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Coastal Act) (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§30000 *et seq.*):
 - a) Establishes the California Coastal Commission (commission) in the California Natural Resources Agency.
 - b) Includes legislative findings and declarations that:
 - i) The coastal zone is a distinct and valuable natural resource of vital and enduring interest to all the people, the permanent protection of the state's natural and scenic resources is a paramount concern to present and future residents, and existing uses and future developments that are carefully

- planned and developed consistent with the Coastal Act are essential to the economic and social well-being of the people of the state (PRC §30001).
- ii) It is important for the commission to encourage the protection of existing and the provision of new affordable housing opportunities for persons of low and moderate income in the coastal zone (PRC §30604).
 - iii) The basic goals of the state for the coastal zone include to:
 - (1) Protect, maintain, and, where feasible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the coastal zone environment and its natural and artificial resources;
 - (2) Ensure orderly, balanced utilization and conservation of coastal zone resources, taking into account the social and economic needs of the people of the state; and
 - (3) Maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resources conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners, among other things (PRC §30001.5).
- c) Provides for the planning and regulation of development within the coastal zone, as defined.
- i) A person planning to perform or undertake any development in the coastal zone is required to obtain a coastal development permit (CDP) from the commission or local government enforcing a certified local coastal program (LCP) (PRC §30600).
 - (1) Development means, among other things, the placement or erection of any solid material or structure on land or in water. Structure means any building, road, pipe, flume, conduit, and electrical power transmission and distribution line, among other things (PRC §30106).
 - (2) The coastal zone means the coastal land and waters of California, and includes the lands that extend inland generally 1,000 yards from the mean high tide line, as specified, with various exceptions, including the San Francisco Bay (PRC §30103).
- d) Provides a CDP exemption for certain types of development including, among others:

- i) Improvements to existing single-family residences, as specified;
- ii) Improvements to structures other than a single-family residence or a public works facility that do not involve a risk of adverse environmental effect, affect public access, or involve a change in use contrary to the Coastal Act, as provided;
- iii) Maintenance dredging of existing navigation channels;
- iv) Repair or maintenance activities that do not result in an addition to or enlargement or expansion of the object of those activities, as specified;
- v) Temporary development, as provided;
- vi) The replacement of a structure other than a public works facility destroyed by a disaster provided that the replacement structure conforms to applicable existing zoning requirements, is for the same use as the destroyed structure, does not exceed either the floor area, height, or bulk of the destroyed structure by more than 10%, and is sited in the same location, as provided (PRC §30610).
- e) Defines “environmentally sensitive area” to mean any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments (PRC §30107.5).

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits use of the CDP exemption for the replacement of a structure destroyed by a disaster where the structure conforms to existing zoning, is for the same use, sited in the same location, and is no more than 10% larger, as provided, if the property owner is not the property owner of record immediately preceding the disaster, and if the replacement structure would do any of the following:
 - a) Encroach upon a lateral or vertical public access easement or deed restriction.
 - b) Encroach upon an open space easement or deed restriction that has been recorded or offered for dedication, as provided.
 - c) Be located within an environmentally sensitive area or within a required buffer area adjacent to an environmentally sensitive area.

- d) Be sited within a bluff setback established by a certified LCP or the commission.
 - e) Be incompatible with the public trust, as applicable, or occupy, fill, or encroach upon state tide and submerged lands.
 - f) Block, impede, or restrict public access to or along the coast in a manner not present prior to the disaster.
- 2) Provides for reimbursement of mandated state costs, as provided, and makes additional minor technical amendments to statute.

Background

The catastrophic Palisades Fire started on the morning of January 7, 2025, and grew rapidly to over 15,000 acres over the first day driven by strong Santa Ana wind gusts and falling humidity. The fire destroyed or damaged almost 8,000 structures, and tragically resulted in the deaths of 12 people. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the fire burned 23,448 acres, and was not contained until January 31, 2025. Recent estimates by Redfin are that the Palisades Fire alone caused over \$50 billion worth of damage to residential property.

After a disaster, property owners may face multiple challenges when deciding whether to rebuild or sell their lot given delays in insurance payouts, underinsurance, and increases in labor and building materials costs. In the City of Malibu, the Palisades Fire destroyed 700 homes of which 300 were beachfront properties. As of early January 2026, only 22 building permits had been issued by Malibu to rebuild properties destroyed by the Palisades Fire. Some Malibu property owners opted to sell instead of rebuild, and some properties to the west of the Pacific Coast Highway have already been sold. According to Redfin, 44% of the burned lots in Malibu have been purchased by developers. This has raised concerns in the community. For example, developers from New Zealand have purchased 16 burned beachfront lots at a cost of nearly \$100 million and plan to build 16 luxury prefabricated homes to ship to California for installation. They anticipate completion by 2029.

In a series of six Executive Orders during and after the Palisades and Eaton Fires, Governor Newsom suspended the Coastal Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, sections of the California Building Standards Code, and sections of the California Energy Code for disaster rebuilds and repairs. These remain in effect.

[NOTE: See the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee’s bill analyses for detailed background regarding this bill.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/20/26)

California Coastal Protection Network
Sierra Club California
Sonoma Land Trust
Surfrider Foundation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, “The devastating 2025 Palisades Fire destroyed approximately 10,000 homes and businesses in coastal areas, forcing residents to make difficult choices about whether and how to rebuild. The Coastal Act currently allows homes destroyed by disaster to be rebuilt without a new coastal development permit if the new structure is similar to the original. This exemption was intended to help homeowners quickly restore their residence after catastrophic events by accelerating the rebuilding process. Unfortunately, in practice, the exemption may be exploited by investors or developers interested in buying up properties at below-market value, with plans to redevelop them in ways that may limit public coastal access – all without review.”

“SB 1229 closes this loophole by ensuring speculative purchasers rebuilding after disaster cannot bypass the Coastal Act’s core resource protection and public access policies, while still prioritizing streamlined recovery for disaster victims as well as the preservation of our coastal environments and communities.”

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
4/21/26 16:19:40

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1242
Author: Choi (R)
Amended: 4/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird,
Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Weber Pierson

SUBJECT: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

SOURCE: Conference of California Bar Associations

DIGEST: This bill permits an original petitioner in a CARE Court action who is a family member of the respondent to remain involved in the respondent's CARE proceedings, for the purpose of assisting in care coordination and providing relevant information to the CARE team, unless the court finds that the participation is likely to be detrimental to the respondent's treatment or wellbeing.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CARE Act. (Welf. & Inst. Code, div. 5, pt. 8, §§ 5970 et seq.)
- 2) Defines the following relevant terms:
 - a) "CARE agreement" is a voluntary settlement agreement entered into by the parties, and includes the same elements as a CARE plan to support the respondent in accessing community-based services and supports.
 - b) "CARE plan" is an individualized, appropriate range of community-based services and supports, which include clinically appropriate behavioral

health care and stabilization medications, housing, and other supportive services, as appropriate.

- c) “CARE process” is the court and related proceedings to implement the CARE Act.
 - d) “Court-ordered evaluation” means an evaluation ordered by the court in connection with a CARE Act petition, as specified.
 - e) “Department” is the DHCS.
 - f) “Petitioner” is the entity who files a CARE Act petition with the court; if the petitioner is a person other than the director of a county behavioral health agency (CBHA), or their designee, the court shall substitute the director or their designee for the county in which the proceedings are filed as the petitioner at the first hearing.
 - g) “Respondent” is the person who is subject to the petition for the CARE process. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5971.)
- 3) Establishes criteria for a person to qualify for the CARE process, including that the person is 18 years of age or older; the person is experiencing a serious mental disorder, as defined, and has a diagnosis in the disorder class of schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, or bipolar I disorder, as specified; the person is not clinically stabilized in ongoing voluntary treatment; and participation in a CARE plan or agreement would be the least restrictive alternative necessary to ensure the person’s recovery and stability. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5972.)
- 4) Provides that the following adult persons may file a petition to commence the CARE process, including:
- a) A person with whom the respondent resides.
 - b) A spouse, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent, or an individual who stands in loco parentis to the respondent.
 - c) Various persons who have provided care to the respondent within the previous 30 days, or the directors of programs where care was provided to the respondent.
 - d) A first responder, as defined, who has repeated interactions with the respondent, as defined.

- e) The directors of specified public agencies and service providers, including a county behavioral health agency (CBHA).
 - f) The judge of a tribal court located in California before which the respondent has appeared within the previous 30 days.
 - g) The respondent. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5974.)
- 5) Requires the CARE court, upon receipt of a petition, to promptly review the petition to determine if the petitioner has made a prima facie showing that the respondent is, or may be, a person who meets the CARE criteria. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a)(1).)
- 6) Establishes, following a determination that the petition makes a prima facie case that the respondent is eligible for the CARE process, different procedures depending on whether the petitioner is the director of a CBHA or one of the other authorized persons, set forth in 7) and 8). (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a).)
- 7) Provides, pursuant to 6), if the original petitioner is the director of a CBHA, the court must set the matter for an initial appearance on the petition, appoint counsel for the respondent and, if the petition does not include specified information, instruct the CBHA to submit a written report with the requisite information within 14 court days. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a)(3)(A).)
- 8) Provides, pursuant to 6), if the original petitioner is someone other than the director of the CBHA:
- a) The court must order the CBHA to investigate and file a written report with the court regarding whether the respondent meets the CARE criteria, the outcome of efforts to involuntarily engage the respondent, and the respondent's ability to engage in services.
 - b) After receiving the report, if the court determines that the evidence supports a prima facie case that the respondent is eligible for the CARE process and engagement with the county agency was not effective, the court must set an initial appearance on the petition within 14 days; appoint counsel for the respondent; and order the CBHA to provide notice of the initial appearance to the petitioner, the respondent, and the respondent's appointed counsel. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a)(3)(B), (4), & (5).)
- 9) Requires the court, at the initial appearance hearing, to determine whether there is reason to believe that the facts of the petition are true; if the court makes such

a finding, and the original petitioner was not the CBHA, the court must issue an order relieving the original petitioner and appointing the director of the CBHA or their designee as the successor petitioner. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(b)(6)(A).)

- 10) Provides that, when an original petitioner is a person described in 4)(a) or (b), above, they retain all of the following rights after being relieved as a petitioner under 9):
 - a) The right to be present and make a statement at the initial hearing on the merits of the CARE petition.
 - b) The right to receive ongoing notice of proceedings throughout the CARE proceedings, including notice of a continuance or dismissal, unless the court determines, upon its own motion or a motion of the respondent, that it would likely be detrimental to the respondent's treatment or wellbeing.
 - c) The right to participate in the respondent's CARE proceedings to the extent the respondent consents. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(b)(6)(B).)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that, if an original CARE petitioner is the spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandparent, or individual who stands in loco parentis to the respondent, the original petitioner shall be permitted to participate in the respondent's CARE program for the purpose of assisting in care coordination and providing relevant information to the CARE team.
- 2) Provides that the original petitioner shall not be permitted to participate, or their participation may be excluded or limited, under 1) if the court determines, upon its own motion or the motion of the respondent, that the original petitioner's participation likely would be detrimental to the treatment or wellbeing of the respondent.
- 3) Provides that the original petitioner's participation does not authorize the disclosure to the original petitioner of the respondent's confidential medical information without the respondent's consent.

Comments

In 2022, the Legislature enacted the CARE Act. The CARE Act is intended to provide essential mental health and substance use disorder services to severely mentally ill Californians—many of whom are homeless or incarcerated—while

also preserving these individuals' self-determination to the greatest extent possible. The first counties implemented the CARE Act in October 2023; all counties in the state were required to begin accepting CARE petitions as of December 1, 2024, unless they received an implementation extension from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). As the CARE Act has been implemented across the state, stakeholders have figured out what works well and what needs improvement; according to the author and sponsor, one ongoing concern is that a family member who filed the original petition for a CARE respondent is not able to continue participating in the CARE proceedings without the respondent's consent, depriving the participants in the process of potentially helpful information about the respondent's history and condition.

This bill permits an original petitioner who is a family member of the respondent to participate in the respondent's CARE program for the purpose of assisting in care coordination and providing relevant information to the CARE team, unless the court finds that the family member's participation would likely be detrimental to the respondent's treatment or wellbeing. The bill specifies that the participating family member cannot receive the respondent's protected health information without the respondent's consent.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/26)

California Conference of Bar Associations (source)
California State Association of Psychiatrists
Families Advocating for the Seriously Mentally Ill
Family Advocates of Individuals with Serious Mental Illness
Treatment Advocacy Center
Two individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/26)

Cal Voices
California Peer Watch
Disability Rights California
Mental Health America of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Conference of Bar Associations:

This legislation reflects a deliberate and necessary evolution of the CARE Act. When the CARE Court was enacted in 2022, the Legislature intentionally

limited the role of the original petitioners after filing, unless the respondent provided affirmative consent. However, early implementation revealed a critical gap: families who initiated CARE petitions were often excluded from the process, siloed, and lacked the ability to support their loved one, undermining engagement, continuity of care, and the effectiveness of the program. Additionally, respondents lacked insight into their condition, misunderstood the court proceedings, and intentionally declined to allow family participation due to their underlying condition including paranoia and lack of insight.

In response, the Legislature amended Welfare & Institutions Code section 5977 to require ongoing notice to original petitioners effective July 1, 2025, ensuring that families were notified about court proceedings while maintaining confidentiality and judicial discretion. SB 1242 represents the next logical step in this legislative progression. The bill ensures that families remain partners in the recovery of the individual, provide ongoing support, and are involved in community-based care coordination. Confidentiality protections remain intact and participation may be limited by the court.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to Disability Rights California:

In the event the respondent and petitioner have a positive and trusting relationship, existing law already allows for them to work through the CARE Court process together. The only change SB 1242 makes is to open the door to allow petitioners with whom respondents do not have a positive or trusting relationship to be present through CARE Court even if the respondent objects.

CARE Court staff already face an uphill battle to build trust with respondents whom multiple systems have failed, within a court system that respondents did not volunteer to join. In the first CARE Act Annual Report, counties reported a wide range of time from petition to disposition: 8 – 253 days, and that 85% of respondents took 31 or more days to have a petition disposition assigned. Adding to the mix an individual who a respondent specifically does not want to be there will only make building trust that much harder.

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/1/26 13:13:05

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1244
Author: Allen (D)
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab,
Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Public Agency Benefits Intermediary Compensation Disclosure Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes disclosure requirements for brokers, agents, consultants, advisors, and other service providers that provide brokerage services or consulting services to California public agencies in connection with health care employee benefits, regardless of whether the covered service provider is domiciled, headquartered, or maintains a principal place of business within or outside of this state.

ANALYSIS:

Existing state law requires a health care service plan or a health insurer to annually disclose to the governing board of a public agency that is the subscriber of a group contract or the policyholder of a group health insurance policy specified information, including, but not limited to, any fees or commissions paid to any agent, broker, or other individual related to the public agency's group contract or policy. (Health & Safety Code § 1367.08; Insurance Code § 10604.5.)

This bill:

- 1) Requires a covered service provider to disclose to the responsible public agency official, and to the governing body of the public agency or the clerk or other designee identified by the governing body, in writing, specified information before the covered service provider enters into, extends, renews, or materially amends a contract or arrangement for brokerage services or consulting services with the public agency or covered plan.
 - a) The disclosure must include sufficient detail to permit the responsible public agency official and the governing body to understand the nature and potential magnitude of compensation and to identify potential conflicts of interest.
 - b) The disclosure must be signed by an authorized representative of the covered service provider and shall include a certification that the disclosure is true, correct, and complete to the best of the signer's knowledge and that the covered service provider will comply with the update and true-up requirements under this bill.
 - c) The disclosures are required for a prospective contract or arrangement, the covered service provider shall provide the required disclosure with the first written communication to the responsible public agency representative or governing board that contains a formal offer, proposal, or solicitation to provide brokerage, agent, advisory, or consulting services, and must be updated before execution if there is any material change to the expected compensation.
 - d) The disclosures are required for an extension, renewal, or material amendment of an existing contract or arrangement, the covered service provider is required to provide the disclosure not later than 60 days before the effective date of the extension, renewal, or material amendment.
 - e) If the covered service provider delivers ongoing services, the covered service provider shall give an updated disclosure annually, not later than 60 days before the renewal date of each covered health care benefits arrangement for which the covered service provider provides brokerage services or consulting services.
 - f) For any compensation disclosed as an estimate, the covered service provider must provide an annual true-up that includes revised disclosure not later than 90 days after the end of the contract year or plan year, as applicable. For purposes of this requirement, the "contract year" or "plan year" means the 12-month period used for coverage under the covered health care benefits arrangement, or, if that period is not specified, the 12-month period following the effective date or renewal date of the contract.

- g) A covered service provider that discovers an error or omission in a disclosure must provide corrected information as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after the date the covered service provider knows of the error or omission.
- 2) Requires the disclosure in 1) to include the following information listed below.
- a) A description of the brokerage services or consulting services to be provided.
 - b) If applicable, a statement that the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor will provide, or reasonably expects to provide, services pursuant to the contract or arrangement directly to the public agency or covered plan as a fiduciary under applicable law. This does not create or expand fiduciary status under state law.
 - c) A description of all direct compensation, either in the aggregate or by service, that the covered service provider, an affiliate, a subcontractor, or a related party reasonably expects to receive in connection with the services.
 - d) A description of all indirect compensation that the covered service provider, an affiliate, a subcontractor, or a related party reasonably expects to receive in connection with the services, including all of the following:
 - i. a description of the arrangement pursuant to which the indirect compensation is paid;
 - ii. identification of the services for which the indirect compensation will be received, if applicable;
 - iii. Identification of the payer of the indirect compensation;
 - iv. Indirect compensation includes compensation from a carrier, vendor, or third party based on a structure of incentives not solely related to the public agency's contract or policy, including book-of-business incentives, volume bonuses, retention bonuses, and other market-derived income; and
 - v. disclosure that identifies categories, types, or sources of compensation without providing corresponding amounts, good-faith estimates, or formulas for calculating amounts for each identified category, type, or source does not satisfy the requirements of this article. General descriptions of compensation arrangements that may exist or that the covered service provider may from time to time receive are insufficient. The disclosure shall state if the covered service provider reasonably expects to receive the compensation in connection with the specific public agency or covered plan during the applicable contract period.

- e) A description of any compensation that will be paid among the covered service provider, an affiliate, subcontractor, or related party in connection with the services described in paragraph (1) if the compensation is set on a transaction basis, such as commissions, finder's fees, placement fees, or other similar incentive compensation based on business placed or retained, including identification of the services for which the compensation will be paid and identification of the payers and recipients of that compensation.
- f) A description of any compensation that the covered service provider, an affiliate, related party, or a subcontractor reasonably expects to receive in connection with termination of the contract or arrangement, and how any prepaid amounts will be calculated and refunded upon termination.
- g) A description of the manner in which the compensation described in this section will be received.
- h) A description of noncash compensation, including the nature of the noncash compensation and a reasonable good faith estimate of fair market value.
- i) Identification of an ownership interest, equity stake, or other financial interest, including a pending or proposed interest under negotiation or under consideration, that the covered service provider or any related party holds in a carrier, vendor, or other entity that is a party to, or is recommended in connection with, a covered health care benefits arrangement.
- j) If any compensation cannot reasonably be expressed as a monetary amount at the time of disclosure, a reasonable and good faith estimate and an explanation of the methodology and assumptions used to prepare the estimate, including any reasonable allocation methodology for compensation that is pooled across multiple clients.
- k) For all compensation disclosed pursuant to (c), (d), (e), and (h), a breakdown showing all of the following separately:
 - i. compensation to the individual broker, agent, consultant, or advisor;
 - ii. compensation to the firm or company by which the individual is employed or contracted; and
 - iii. compensation to an affiliate, subcontractor, or related party, regardless of whether the compensation is paid directly or routed through a third party or other entity.
- l) For covered service providers that recommend, place, or service benefits arrangements for retirees, including Medicare supplement plans, Medicare Advantage plans, retiree health exchanges, or other retiree coverage, a separate statement disclosing all of the following:

- i. all compensation related to retiree benefits arrangements, broken out separately from compensation related to active employee arrangements;
 - ii. whether compensation for retiree-related services is considered by the covered service provider in determining or offsetting fees for active employee services; and
 - iii. any arrangement pursuant to which retiree-related compensation subsidizes, offsets, or is otherwise connected to the pricing of services for active employee benefits.
 - m) Identification of a material business relationship between the covered service provider, or any related party, and a carrier, vendor, or other entity that is a party to, or is recommended in connection with, a covered health care benefits arrangement. A business relationship is “material” if the covered service provider or related party received or expects to receive compensation exceeding \$10,000 in the aggregate from the carrier or vendor during the 12 months preceding the disclosure or the 12 months following the disclosure.
- 3) Requires a covered service provider to disclose compensation and material financial interests related to a covered health care benefits arrangement that the covered service provider recommends, places, renews, services, or materially influences for a public agency or covered plan, including compensation paid by carriers, vendors, third-party administrators, pharmacy benefit managers, enrollment firms, joint powers authorities, captives, and other sources, whether or not the compensation is solely attributable to the public agency’s specific contract or policy.
- a) This includes compensation received for recommending, facilitating, or influencing a public agency’s decision to join, remain with, or purchase coverage through a joint powers authority, regardless of whether the compensation is paid by the joint powers authority, a vendor contracting with the joint powers authority, or any other source.
- 4) Requires disclosure under 1) and 3) if a covered service provider reasonably expects it would receive, during the term of the contract or arrangement, \$1,000 or more in compensation, direct or indirect, including compensation received by a related party. Noncash compensation must be included in this calculation and must be disclosed if it exceeds \$250 in the aggregate during the term of the contract or arrangement, or if a reasonable person would consider it material.

- 5) Requires a covered service provider that provides brokerage services, consulting services, or administrative services to a joint powers authority (JPA) to do all of the following:
 - a) provide the disclosures described above to the responsible official of the joint powers authority and governing body; and
 - b) make the disclosures available, either directly or through the joint powers authority, to the governing body or responsible official of each public agency that participates in the pooled arrangement, upon request and at least annually.

- 6) Authorizes a JPA that receives disclosures under this bill to do both of the following:
 - a) maintain the disclosures and make them available to its member public agencies upon request; and
 - b) include in its annual reporting to member agencies a summary of compensation disclosed by covered service providers or provide a copy of the full disclosure.

- 7) Requires a covered service provider that recommends, facilitates, or materially influences a public agency's decision to join, remain with, or purchase coverage through a joint powers authority to disclose to that public agency all compensation received or reasonably expected to be received, directly or indirectly, in connection with that recommendation, as specified.

- 8) Prohibits a covered service provider from doing certain acts.

- 9) Requires a covered service provider to retain records sufficient to support the required disclosures for not less than three years following the later of the following:
 - a) the date the disclosure is provided; or
 - b) the termination of the contract or arrangement. Upon request by the Attorney General, a county counsel, a city attorney, or an authorized local prosecutor, a covered service provider is to make these records available for inspection.

- 10) Provides that these provisions apply to contracts or arrangements entered into, extended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2028. Public agencies and covered service providers are encouraged to voluntarily comply with this article before January 1, 2028.

Comments

Public agencies, including school districts, cities, counties, community colleges, and special districts, spend billions annually on employee health benefits. Just like private employers, public agencies often rely on brokers and consultants to recommend insurance carriers, negotiate rates, and select vendors for benefits. These brokers generally receive compensation directly from the carriers. The fact that they are being compensated is usually disclosed; however, the exact amount of compensation is not.

This bill is intended to ensure that public agencies receive transparent disclosure of compensation and potential conflicts of interest on a reasonable timeframe to inform procurement and renewal decisions regarding health care benefits and benefits-related services. In order to effectuate this policy, this bill places disclosure requirements on a covered service provider related to monetary compensation over \$1,000 and any non-monetary compensation over \$250 for covered health care benefits arrangements. A "covered service provider" means a broker, agent, consultant, or advisor that enters into a contract or arrangement with a covered plan or public agency and reasonably expects, knew, or should have known it would receive, compensation, direct or indirect, to be received in connection with providing brokerage services or consulting services. A "covered health care benefit" arrangement includes numerous types of services ranging from medical, dental, and vision coverage to pharmacy benefit managers, employee assistance programs, and other service providers.

The disclosure requirements apply to any extension, renewal, or material amendment of an existing contract or arrangement, and is to be provided no later than 60 days before the effective date of the extension, renewal, or material amendment. If the covered service provider provides ongoing services, the covered service provider is required to provide an updated disclosure annually, and an annual true-up that includes revised disclosure for any compensation previously disclosed as an estimate.

A covered service provider would be required to retain records sufficient to support the disclosures required by this bill for not less than three years following the later of the following: (1) the date the disclosure is provided; or (2) the termination of the contract or arrangement. Upon request by the Attorney General, a county counsel, a city attorney, or an authorized local prosecutor, a covered service provider is to make the records available for inspection. This bill's provisions would apply to contracts or arrangements entered into, extended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2028; however, this bill encourages public agencies

and covered service providers to voluntarily comply with this article before January 1, 2028.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

AFSCME California
Association of California School Administrators
California Federation of Labor Unions AFL-CIO
California Federation of Teachers
California School Boards Association
California School Employees Association
SEIU California
California Teachers Association
Health Access California
Orange County Employees Association
Purchaser Business Group on Health
SMART - Transportation Division

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

California Agents and Health Insurance Professionals

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

Healthcare premiums have more than tripled over the past 20 years. Public agencies have been grappling with these rising prices that are, in some cases, compounded by compensation paid to insurance intermediaries who advise employers on health care options to select for their employees' benefits package. Private employers receive compensation disclosures from these intermediaries, which can help guide decisions on which benefits to select and which intermediaries to contact with. Public agencies, however, currently receive no such transparency, and thus have to make large financial decisions with less information available to them.

SB 1244 will close this gap in the law and help public agencies make more fiscally sound decisions when selecting employee benefits options by requiring insurance intermediaries to proactively disclose the compensation they earn for advising these agencies to select certain health care options.

SEIU California, a supporter of this bill, writes in support stating:

[...] Public entities spend billions of dollars annually on employee health benefits. They rely on insurance brokers, agents, and consultants to recommend insurance carriers, negotiate rates, and select vendors. However, these intermediaries often receive compensation from insurers and third parties that public agencies never see. It is common for the service contracts between public agencies and intermediaries to contain a general disclosure that they may receive either direct or indirect compensation that may be based on the premium charged by the insurer with little to no other details. These hidden compensation arrangements can create misaligned incentives, steering public agencies toward more expensive vendors because the compensation for the insurance broker is greater if that option is chosen. These costs are ultimately borne by taxpayers and employees.

Commissions can be as high as 50 percent of the premium for some supplemental products, which are built into the premiums that the employers and employees pay. Base commissions can be between three to six percent of the total premium for an entire health insurance plan and bonuses could be as high as \$150,000 for a single employer group. In addition, they are often treated to trips and other experiences, such as going to the Super Bowl or a luxury resort. Insurance plan costs have tripled in the last 20 years, which makes added opaque forms of compensation a serious issue compounding the affordability problems for public agencies.[...]

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Agents and Health Insurance Professionals (CAHIP) writes in opposition unless amended. They raise several concerns with bill, including that it goes beyond requirements required at the federal level, applies to a broader category of providers and services than at the federal level, places burdensome requirements that could be operationally difficult to comply with, and may discourage agents and brokers from working with public agencies. CAHIP states they welcome an opportunity to work with the author to address their concerns and writes:

[...] In its current form, SB 1244 risks creating a system in which compliance is impractical, liability is misaligned, and administrative burdens may discourage qualified agents and brokers from serving public agencies. This would not be because agents are uninterested in providing transparency, but because there is no effective way of delivering the transparency that this bill requires – which simply means that agents would be putting themselves in legal jeopardy for participating in the marketplace for governmental plans. This could ultimately limit competition,

reduce choice, and negatively impact the public entities the bill seeks to protect.[...]

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/5/26 15:55:45

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1256
Author: Jones (R)
Amended: 4/30/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/21/26

AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/29/26

AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SUBJECT: Subdivision Map Act: action or proceeding

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill bars an action or proceeding under the Subdivision Map Act when a substantially similar claim or issue was raised in a prior California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) action against the same defendant when that CEQA action has been fully adjudicated and the project that is the subject of the CEQA action has been approved by the lead agency.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires, under the Subdivision Map Act, a tentative and final map for all subdivisions creating five or more parcels, five or more condominiums as defined in Section 783 of the Civil Code, a community apartment project containing five or more parcels, or for the conversion of a dwelling to a stock cooperative containing five or more dwelling units, as specified and with certain exceptions. (Government (Gov.) Code § 66426.)
- 2) Requires a service of summons to be effected within 90 days after the date of a decision in any action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul

the decision of an advisory agency, appeal board, or legislative body concerning a subdivision, or of any of the proceedings, acts, or determinations taken, done, or made prior to the decision, or to determine the reasonableness, legality, or validity of any condition attached thereto, including, but not limited to, the approval of a tentative map or final map or the any action is barred. (Gov. Code § 66499.37.)

- a) The proceeding is to take precedence over all matters of the calendar of the court except criminal, probate, eminent domain, forcible entry, and unlawful detainer proceedings.
- 3) Requires lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed discretionary project to prepare a negative declaration, mitigated declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from CEQA (CEQA includes various statutory exemptions, as well as categorical exemptions in the CEQA Guidelines). (Public Resources (Pub. Res.) Code § 21100 et seq.)
- a) Sets requirements relating to the preparation, review, comment, approval and certification of environmental documents, as well as procedures relating to an action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul various actions of a public agency on the grounds of noncompliance with CEQA. (Pub. Res. Code § 21165 et seq.)
 - b) Authorizes judicial review of CEQA actions taken by public agencies, following the agency's decision to carry out or approve the project, and specifies certain time periods in which an action must be instituted depending on the type of claim alleged. (Pub. Res. Code § 21167.)

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits any action or proceeding to enforce the Subdivision Map Act from being maintained if all of the following criteria apply:
 - a) the action or proceeding to enforce the Subdivision Map Act includes substantially similar claims or issues to claims raised in an action or proceeding to enforce CEQA;
 - b) the defendant in the action or proceeding to enforce the Subdivision Map Act was the defendant in the action or proceeding to enforce CEQA;
 - c) the CEQA action or proceeding has been fully adjudicated; and
 - d) the project that is the subject of the CEQA action or proceeding has been approved by the lead agency.

- e) The plaintiffs or petitioners in the action or proceeding to enforce the Subdivision Map Act are the same or in privity with the plaintiffs or petitioners in the action or proceeding to enforce CEQA.
- 2) Provides that nothing above is to be construed to do either of the following:
- a) Prohibit the filing of timely objections to ensure an agency's return to a writ seeking to enforce its specific mandates.
 - b) Prohibit the timely filing of a separate action relating to the same project.

Comments

Enacted in 1970, CEQA requires state and local agencies to follow a set protocol to disclose and evaluate the significant environmental impacts of proposed projects and to adopt feasible measures to mitigate those impacts. CEQA itself applies to projects undertaken or requiring approval by public agencies, and, if more than one agency is involved, CEQA requires one of the agencies to be designated as the "lead agency." The environmental review process required by CEQA consists of: (1) determining if the activity is a project; (2) determining if the project is exempt from CEQA; and (3) performing an initial study to identify the environmental impacts and, depending on the findings, prepare either a Negative Declaration (for projects with no significant impacts), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (for projects with significant impacts but that are revised in some form to avoid or mitigate those impacts), or an EIR (for projects with significant impacts).

An EIR must accurately describe the proposed project, identify and analyze each significant environmental impact expected to result from the proposed project, identify mitigation measures to reduce those impacts to the extent feasible, and evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. Before approving any project that has received environmental review, an agency must make certain findings pertaining to the project's environmental impact and any associated mitigation measures. If mitigation measures are required or incorporated into a project, the public agency must adopt a reporting or monitoring program to ensure compliance with those measures. To enforce the requirements of CEQA, a civil action may be brought under several code sections to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the acts or decisions of a public agency for noncompliance with the act.

Unlike other environmental laws specific to air resources, water resources, or the control of toxic substances, there is no statewide bureaucracy charged with

enforcement of CEQA. Rather, it is enforced through citizen participation and litigation if necessary. Arguably, this makes the implementation of CEQA more efficient and expeditious than if a state agency were created to administer the law. Thus, CEQA litigation could more appropriately be characterized as mere enforcement. “CEQA operates, not by dictating proenvironmental outcomes, but rather by mandating that ‘decision makers and the public’ study the likely environmental effects of contemplated government actions and thus make fully informed decisions regarding those actions. . . . In other words, CEQA does not care what decision is made as long as it is an informed one.” (*Citizens Coalition Los Angeles v. City of Los Angeles* (2018) 26 Cal. App. 5th 561, 577.)

The Subdivision Map Act (Map Act) governs how local legislative bodies regulate the division of real property into smaller parcels for sale, lease, or financing. Under the Map Act, cities and counties are required to adopt local subdivision ordinances to carry out the Map Act and any local requirements. A subdivision’s design and improvements as adopted under the Map Act must be consistent with city and county general plans.

With limited exceptions, all subdivisions creating five or more parcels require a city or county to approve a tentative map and then a final map. Local officials may require, as a condition of approving a proposed subdivision, the dedication of property within a subdivision for streets, alleys, drainage, utility easements, and other public easements and improvements. An applicant who agrees to the conditions and meets the other requirements in the Map Act and local subdivision ordinances may be granted a tentative map. Once subdividers comply with those conditions, local officials must issue final maps.

A person can bring any action to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the decision of an advisory agency, appeal board, or legislative body concerning a subdivision, or of any of the proceedings, acts, or determinations taken, done, or made prior to the decision, or to determine the reasonableness, legality, or validity of any condition attached thereto, including, but not limited to, the approval of a tentative map or final map. However, a service of summons has to be effected within 90 days after the date of a decision or all claims are barred.

This bill is modeled off the judicial doctrines of res judicata (claim preclusion) and equitable estoppel (issue preclusion). Res judicata “prevents relitigation of the same cause of action [claim] in a second suit between the same parties or parties in privity with them.”¹ The elements needed to assert res judicata are: (1) the legal

¹ *DKN Holdings LLC v. Faerber* (2015) 61 Cal.4th 813, 824.

claim or issue in the present action is identical to a claim or issue in a prior proceeding; (2) the prior proceeding resulted in a final judgment on the merits; and (3) the party against whom the doctrine is being asserted was a party or in privity with a party to the prior proceedings.²

Equitable estoppel precludes relitigation of the same *issue* already resolved in an earlier proceeding, even if the two claims are not the same. The courts have held that the elements of equitable estoppel apply: “(1) after final adjudication; (2) of an identical issue; (3) actually litigated and necessarily decided in the first suit; and (4) asserted against one who was a party in the first suit or one in privity with that party”³ “If all four of the requirements for issue preclusion are satisfied, a court then also determines whether application of preclusion would be consistent with the “preservation of the integrity of the judicial system, promotion of judicial economy, and protection of litigants from harassment by vexatious litigation.”⁴

The courts have held that the concept of privity is a requirement of due process and that in instances where the party in the first action is not the same party as in the second party, the interests of the two parties must be “so similar” that the party in the first action was essentially the “virtual representative” of the party in the second action.⁵ The court has noted that if the interests of the parties are divergent, adequate representation is not inferred and no privity is found.⁶

This bill seeks to bar claims under the Map Act when a substantially similar claim was raised in a CEQA action against the same defendant when the CEQA action has been fully adjudicated and the project that is the subject of the CEQA action has been approved by the lead agency. The author claims that the bill is needed to halt the practice where a plaintiff exhausts all their remedies under a CEQA suit and then brings a suit under the Map Act based on substantially similar claims. The author argues this tactic is being used more and more to thwart housing development construction in the state and is an abuse of scarce judicial resources, which is the same policy behind the doctrines described above.

This bill is more akin to the doctrine of equitable estoppel as the claims in the first action (a CEQA claim) would be different in the second action (Map Act claim). This bill differs from the elements of equitable estoppel described above in two ways. First, the issues in the CEQA action are not required to be identical, but

² *Roberson v. City of Rialto* (2014) 226 Cal.App.4th 1499, 1510.

³ *State Comp. Ins. Fund v. ReadyLink Healthcare, Inc.* (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 422, 447-48.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Roberson supra* at fn.2, at p. 1511.

⁶ *Ibid.*

substantially similar. Under CEQA, the standard of review used by a court is the “fair argument standard” and applies to agency decisions and judicial review of those decisions.⁷ The court has described this standard “purposely sets a low threshold of evidence in order to maximize environmental protections and thereby fulfill the purposes inherent in CEQA.”⁸ The court noted that planning or zoning determinations, in contrast, “are reviewed with greater deference, both because the public entity is deemed best able to interpret its own rules and because it is presumed to bring local knowledge and experience to bear on such issues.”⁹ To the extent CEQA has a lower evidentiary burden for plaintiffs to meet, and issues in a CEQA case are found to be unsubstantiated in a final judgment by the court, barring substantially similar issues to be raised in an action under the Map Act seems to meet the policy goals of res judicata to preserve the integrity of the judicial system, promote judicial economy, and protect litigants (in this case locals) from harassment by vexatious litigation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/7/26)

LIUNA Local 89
RCS Harmony Partners

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/7/26)

Endangered Habitats League
Equitable Land Use Alliance
The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council
6 individuals

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

California’s housing crisis is exacerbated by frivolous, never-ending lawsuits brought against developers of planned housing projects. Nowhere is this more apparent and frequently utilized for abuse than under the California Environmental Quality Act for which an entire cottage industry has grown around litigant services related to the Act. However, when CEQA lawsuits are fully adjudicated and developers are able to remedy any issues with the projects to the satisfaction of the court and lead agency, plaintiffs

⁷ *Georgetown Preservation Society v. County of El Dorado* (2018) 30 Cal.App.5th 358, 371.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

have begun to petition the court under different acts of law to further delay projects.

Avoiding the legal principle of res judicata by suing project developers for the same issues already brought forward in a previously adjudicated CEQA lawsuit under a different act is contrary to the intent of our legal system, our environmental laws and the State's stated goals on providing more housing inventory.

This bill would prevent plaintiffs from performing in the end-run maneuver by barring a plaintiff from suing the same defendant for the same project under the Subdivision Maps Act – a favorite vessel for this tactic – if the issues being raised are substantially similar to those already raised in a previously adjudicated CEQA lawsuit.

This bill does not erode CEQA's environmental protection, does not carve out any project from CEQA or otherwise affect the application of CEQA.

RCS Harmony Partners writes in support stating:

SB 1256 seeks to address one aspect of that problem by prohibiting litigation or enforcement actions under the Subdivision Map Act where: 1) the claims are substantially similar to claims raised and litigated to trial judgment following appeal, in a prior adjudicated CEQA action or proceeding; 2) the defendant in the new action was a party to that prior action; and 3) the project has been approved (and re-approved, following adjudication) by the lead agency.

Harmony Grove Village South is a vivid example of why this reform is needed. The application for the project was first filed in San Diego County in 2015—well over ten years ago. The project is a masterplanned community in the San Dieguito Community Plan area of unincorporated San Diego County within two miles of major transportation and job centers. It includes 453 homes at an overall density of 4.08 dwelling units per acre; a 5,000-square-foot community clubhouse with 1,500 square feet of public commercial space; 12 public and private parks; 1.5 miles of trails and pathways; and 35 acres of dedicated biological open space. Moreover, the project's Greenhouse Gas emissions will be mitigated to Net Zero. As a condition of approval, the project will provide on-site affordable housing equal to 10 percent of the total dwelling units. The project is also covered by

a project labor agreement with Laborers Local 89—one of the first for new housing project in the San Diego region.

This project has been thoroughly reviewed within the County's rigorous process and unanimously approved twice by two different Boards of Supervisors in two different political eras (2018 and 2025). Despite those approvals, starting in 2018, project opponents filed two separate lawsuits challenging the County's EIR on numerous grounds, in fact totaling over 40 such allegations. After years of litigation, only one CEQA claim remained, which was remanded to the trial court by the appellate court. Even though this one remaining issue was fixed and the project was re-approved in 2025, the trial court has allowed the plaintiffs to re-litigate the very same issues and claims that the courts resolved in favor of the project years ago.

Throughout this entire process, the opponents main target of opposition—the project's Fire Protection Plan—was wholly upheld by the Appellate Court. To date, the developer has incurred multiple millions of dollars in legal fees, and finality remains elusive. [...]

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council and Endangered Habitats League write in opposition stating:

Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council and Endangered Habitats League write to oppose Senate Bill 1256 (Jones). Endangered Habitats League is a Southern California organization dedicated to ecosystem protection and sustainable land use. The Town Council is a community group whose constituents would be directly harmed by this bill and their fire safety compromised.

SB 1256 would bar Subdivision Map Act suits whenever a developer has survived a California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) challenge on a “substantially similar” issue—even if the local government committed entirely new and distinct violations in a subsequent approval. In practice, it would give local governments a free pass to ignore their own subdivision ordinances when reapproving a project after a successful CEQA challenge.

Although SB 1256 would alter housing policy statewide, it was written to stop a specific pending suit brought by our organizations: Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council et al. v. County of San Diego et al., No. 25CU069194C. Our suit challenges the County of San Diego’s refusal to require fire protection review before approving the 2025 subdivision map for the Harmony Grove Village South project. Because all prior approvals were overturned in the previous CEQA litigation, this was a mandatory procedural step set out in the County’s code

addressing subdivision map approvals that the County should have undertaken for t
the new project application review. Yet, it refused to do so.

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/8/26 11:14:42

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1288
Author: Laird (D)
Amended: 3/26/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, McNerney, Reyes, Stern,
Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby, Valladares

SUBJECT: Property: nonprobate transfer of ownership

SOURCE: CalNonprofits
San Diego Humane Society
Valley Humane Society

DIGEST: This bill seeks to establish a streamlined process under the Uniform TOD Security Registration Act for a nonprofit corporation, a charitable trust, or an entity exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. This bill clarifies that those entities can be named as beneficiaries on a beneficiary form and specifies what documentation can be provided to establish proof of death of an account owner; prohibits a registering entity from requiring a beneficiary to open an account to receive a security or from providing other specified information; and places a requirement on a registering entity to provide notice to beneficiaries upon receipt of credible proof of death, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Existing law, the Uniform TOD Security Registration Act, provides for the transfer of the ownership or proceeds of a security upon the death of the owner, without probate or estate administration. (Probate (Prob.) Code §§ 5500 et seq.)

- 2) Authorizes a registering entity offering to accept registrations in beneficiary form to establish the terms and conditions under which it will receive requests for:
 - a) registrations in beneficiary form; and
 - b) implementation of registrations in beneficiary form, including requests for cancellation of previously registered TOD beneficiary designations and requests for reregistration to effect a change of beneficiary. (Prob. Code § 5510(a).)

- 3) Authorizes the terms and conditions established under 2), above, to provide for:
 - a) proving death;
 - b) avoiding or resolving any problems concerning fractional shares;
 - c) designating primary and contingent beneficiaries; and
 - d) substituting a named beneficiary's descendants to take in the place of the named beneficiary in the event of the beneficiary's death. (Prob. Code § 5510(b).)

- 4) Provides that upon the death of a sole owner or the last to die of all multiple owners, ownership of securities registered in beneficiary form passes to the beneficiary or beneficiaries who survive all owners.
 - a) On proof of death of all owners and compliance with any applicable requirements of the registering entity, a security registered in beneficiary form may be reregistered in the name of the beneficiary or beneficiaries who survive the death of all owners. (Prob. Code § 5507.)

- 5) Provides that a registering entity is discharged from all claims to a security by the estate, creditors, heirs, or devisees of a deceased owner if it registers a transfer of the security in accordance with 4), above, and does so in good faith reliance on:
 - a) the registration;
 - b) the Uniform TOD Security Registration Act; and
 - c) information provided to it by affidavit of the personal representative of the deceased owner, or by the surviving beneficiary or the surviving beneficiary's representatives, or other information available to the registering entity. (Prob. Code § 5508(c).)

- 6) Specifies that the protections of the Uniform TOD Security Registration Act do not extend to a reregistration or payment made after a registering entity has received written notice from any claimant to any interest in the security

objecting to implementation of a registration in beneficiary form. (Prob. Code § 5508(c).)

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes a nonprofit corporation, a charitable trust, or an entity exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)) to be named in a beneficiary form under the Uniform TOD Security Registration Act.
 - a) The legal identity of an entity described above is established by providing the registering entity with a federal employer identification number (EIN), phone number, and mailing address. The registering entity is prohibited from requiring any individual associated with the beneficiary entity to provide personal identifying information.
 - b) The registering entity may require identifying information from a beneficiary, including a social security number for individual beneficiaries and an EIN for nonprofit or charitable beneficiaries, a phone number, and a mailing address to verify identity.
 - c) A registering entity must permit an entity described above to demonstrate its entitlement to the security by providing the following documentation:
 - i. proof of the decedent's death through provision of a death certificate, obituary, funeral invoice, or other reliable documentation;
 - ii. a copy of a nonprofit's IRS tax-exempt status letter, as applicable;
 - iii. the entity's EIN and contact information; and
 - iv. a completed IRS Form W-9 request for taxpayer identification number and certificate.
- 2) Requires a registering entity that receives notification of death of an owner from a credible source, and is provided with proof of death of all owners of the security, to initiate its beneficiary notification process.
 - a) Proof of death may be provided through a certified informational copy of a death certificate or other reliable documentation.
 - b) Only one such document from any party is required to begin the process.
- 3) Requires a registering entity, upon receipt of proof of death of all owners of the security, to make a reasonable and good-faith effort to notify each named beneficiary within 60 days.
 - a) The initial notification cannot disclose the account balance, transaction history, or other private financial information.

- b) The registering entity must disclose the percentage and amount of a beneficiary's designated share to the beneficiary after their identity is confirmed.
- 4) Prohibits a registering entity from requiring a beneficiary to open an account in order to receive ownership of the registered securities.
 - a) A registering entity must make reasonable efforts to streamline transfers of securities.
 - b) If there is more than one beneficiary, a registering entity cannot require the beneficiaries to submit claims simultaneously or impose coordination deadlines among co-beneficiaries. If there is more than one beneficiary, no more than one beneficiary can be required to submit proof of death of the owner or owners.
- 5) Requires a beneficiary that has provided all required documentation to receive their designated share upon completing the registering entity's process. A beneficiary cannot be required to wait for any other beneficiary to act before transfer, unless legally required due to outstanding liens, levies, or court orders affecting the estate or account. Any such legal impediment to transfer must be disclosed to the beneficiary upon inquiry.
- 6) Provides that a registering entity that originates or transfers securities in reliance on documentation that complies with this section shall be discharged from all claims to the security by the estate, creditors, heirs, or devisees of a deceased owner to the same extent, and subject to the same requirements, described in Section 5508 of the Probate Code.

Comments

When a person dies, (referred to as the decedent) their assets are generally distributed through a will or by intestate succession and are usually subject to probate administration. Probate administration involves a court proceeding to administer the decedent's estate by: deciding if a will exists, and if so, if it is valid; who are the decedent's heirs or beneficiaries; how much the decedent's estate is worth; taking care of the decedent's unresolved debts; and transferring the decedent's property to the heirs or beneficiaries.¹ Existing law provides for various ways to transfer property outside of formal probate administration, including transfer-on-death or payable-on-death accounts under the Uniform TOD Security Registration Act (Act). This act authorizes a registering entity (entity that holds the security) to establish a process for designating beneficiaries and proving death,

¹ Cal. Courts, *Guide to property after someone dies* (2026), available at <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/probate>.

avoiding or resolving any problems concerning fractional shares, designating primary and contingent beneficiaries, and substituting a named beneficiary's descendants to take in the place of the named beneficiary in the event of the beneficiary's death. (Prob. Code § 5510(b).)

According to the author and sponsors of the bill, nonprofits have been encountering issues in receiving or claiming securities for which they are beneficiaries. One issue they identify is not being informed by a registering entity that they are a beneficiary on an account when the account owner dies. Another obstacle nonprofits have encountered is being required to provide inconsistent documentation and administrative hurdles. The sponsors note that registering entities may require a nonprofit to open an account with the registering entity in order to disburse the security to the nonprofit, and may request personally identifying information of nonprofit employees or board members in order to open such accounts. Another situation nonprofits have encountered is registering entities requesting duplicative or burdensome verification requirements. One example provided to Committee staff is when multiple nonprofits may be a beneficiary on an account and the registering entity requires each separate beneficiary to provide a death certificate for the account holder. The sponsors note that this serves no purposes as a registering entity can verify proof of death of an account owner when it receives a death certificate from any one beneficiary. They write that this bill “does not create new beneficiary rights or alter estate plans; it simply ensures that existing designations are administered transparently, efficiently, and consistent with donor intent.”

To address the issues identified above, the bill amends the Act to do several things. First, it specifically allows a nonprofit corporation, a charitable trust, or other entity exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)), to be named in a beneficiary form. The bill requires registering entities to make a reasonable and good faith effort to notify named beneficiaries within 60 days of receiving proof of death from a credible source – whether a charitable entity or other type of beneficiary. This can be a certified informational copy of a death certificate or other reliable documentation. A registering entity can only require one document from any party to begin the beneficiary notification process. The bill allows a nonprofit or charitable beneficiary to provide their federal employer identification number (EIN) and mailing address for identification purposes and prohibits requiring any individual associated with the beneficiary entity to provide personal identifying information.

The bill requires a registering entity to make reasonable efforts to streamline transfers of securities and prohibits requiring beneficiaries to submit claims simultaneously or imposing coordination deadlines among co-beneficiaries. A beneficiary that has provided all required documentation is to receive their designated share upon completing the registering entity's process, and cannot be required to wait for any other beneficiary to act before transfer, unless legally required due to outstanding liens, levies, or court orders affecting the estate or account. A registering entity is also prohibited from requiring a beneficiary to open an account to receive the security. If a registering entity has already received proof of death of an account owner, it cannot request this documentation from any other beneficiaries. Under the bill, a registering entity that originates or transfers securities in reliance on documentation that complies with this bill is discharged from all claims to the security by the estate, creditors, heirs, or devisees of a deceased owner to the same extent as a registering entity already is under the Act when they act in good faith reliance. (*See Prob. Code § 5508(c).*)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/16/26)

CalNonprofits (Co-source)

San Diego Humane Society (Co-source)

Valley Humane Society (Co-source)

Alan Hu Foundation

Animal Legal Defense Fund

Animal Save Movement

Animal Shelter Assistance Program

Aspira Philanthropy Lab

Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Association of California Symphony Orchestras

Autism Society Inland Empire Inc.

Berkeley-east Bay Humane Society

Best Friends Animal Society

Calaveras Humane Society

California Academy of Sciences

California Community Living Network

Cameo Network

Camp Ocean Pines, Inc.

Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area

Center for Living and Learning

Chicas Mom, Inc.

Children's Fund
Chrysalis
Community Environmental Council
Creative Alternatives
Crop Swap LA
East Bay SPCA
Equality California
Foothill Family
Habitat For Humanity California
High Desert Community Foundation
Hospice Help Network
Humane Animal Services
Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA
Joybound People & Pets
Kitchens for Good
Los Padres ForestWatch
Lumina Alliance
MAAC
Marin Shakespeare Company
Meals on Wheels Orange County
Media Alliance
Microenterprise Collaborative of Inland Southern California
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Nature for All
Newport Beach Public Library Foundation
Oceanside Ivey Ranch Park Association
Orange County Coastkeeper
Pasadena Humane
PathPoint
Pets Lifeline
Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera
Sacramento SPCA
Santa Barbara Humane Society
Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society
Sonoma Land Trust
SPCALA
Starting Over Inc.
Starting Over Strong
The Impact Fund
Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural

Tracy Community Connections Center
Tuleyome
Union Station Homeless Services
Woods Humane Society
YMCA of Silicon Valley

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/16/26)

Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

When someone names a beneficiary, whether a family member, loved one, or nonprofit they believe in, they're expressing their values and the legacy they hope to leave behind. We have a responsibility to honor that dying wish. Senate Bill 1288 ensures that beneficiaries are made aware of funds left to them, sets reasonable verification standards, and streamlines administrative barriers to ensure gifts reach loved ones and the communities they were intended to serve without unnecessary hurdles or delays.

The sources of the bill, CalNonprofits, the San Diego Humane Society, and the Valley Humane Society, write in support stating that this bill will:

[...] protect donor intent and ensure that charitable beneficiary designations are honored efficiently and without unnecessary administrative barriers.

Each year, Californians designate nonprofit organizations as beneficiaries of retirement accounts, brokerage accounts, and other transfer-on-death or payable-on-death assets with the expectation that those gifts will pass directly and outside of probate. These nonprobate transfers are intentionally structured to avoid court supervision, reduce costs, and ensure timely distribution. Yet, under current law, there is no clear requirement that financial institutions notify charitable beneficiaries when an account holder dies. As a result intended gifts may sit dormant, face prolonged delays, or ultimately transfer to the state as unclaimed property despite clear beneficiary designations. [...]

SB 1288 establishes clear, reasonable standards to modernize California law and ensure nonprobate transfers function as donors intended. [...]

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) writes in opposition unless amended stating:

[...] SB 1288, and similar bills across the country, seek to streamline the transfer process, which is an admirable goal. We agree that the process can be cumbersome and sometimes take much longer than everyone would like. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on how to improve the process without triggering fraud, tax, and compliance concerns.

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
4/20/26 9:40:34

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1292
Author: Richardson (D)
Amended: 4/22/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 11-1, 4/14/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-2, 4/20/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NOES: Jones, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Enhanced curb management system

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the Cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Inglewood, San Diego, and Long Beach to operate, until January 1, 2032, enhanced curb management systems with stationary cameras that record images of vehicles for the purpose of enforcing parking violations and automating parking payments, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes a public transit operator to install automated forward facing parking control devices on city-owned or district-owned public transit vehicles for the purpose of video imaging of parking violations occurring in transit only traffic lanes and at transit stops until January 1, 2027. (Vehicle Code (VEH) §40240)

- 2) Authorizes designated employees to review video image recordings for the purpose of determining whether a parking violation occurred in a transit-only traffic lane and permits alleged violators to review the video image evidence of the alleged violation during normal business hours at no cost. (VEH §40240)
- 3) Authorizes a local agency to install automated forward facing parking control devices on city-owned or district-owned parking enforcement vehicles for the purpose of taking photographs of parking violations occurring in bicycle lanes until 2030. (VEH §40245)
- 4) Prohibits a car from parking on a crosswalk, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or official traffic control device. (VEH §22500)

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes the Cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Inglewood, San Diego and Long Beach to establish an “enhanced curb management system” defined as one or more stationary cameras or sensor devices with designated signage that record images of vehicles for the purpose of enforcing parking violations or automating parking payments.
- 2) Repeals the authorization for the pilot on January 1, 2032.
- 3) Allows the use of an enhanced curb management system in any of the following locations:
 - a) Passenger loading zones.
 - b) Commercial loading zone for the purpose of enforcing parking violations only.
 - c) Smart loading zones.
 - d) Zero-emissions delivery zones.
 - e) Bicycle lanes.
 - f) No stopping zones.
 - g) Crosswalks.
- 4) Requires the governing body of the local agency to adopt a public ordinance or resolution authorizing the use of the enhanced curb management system.

- 5) Specifies that the ordinance must include an Enhanced Curb Management Use Policy with the following information:
 - a) The specific purpose of the system, the uses that are authorized, the rules and processes requirement to be followed by employees and contractors of the designated jurisdiction administering the system prior to its use, and the uses of the equipment or data collected that are prohibited.
 - b) The data or information that can be collected by the system and the individuals who can access or use the collected information, and the rules and processes related to the access, transfer, and use of the information.
 - c) Provisions for protecting data from unauthorized access, data retention, public access, third-party data sharing, training, auditing, and oversight to ensure compliance with the Enhanced Curb Management Use Policy.
- 6) Authorizes the local agency to automate parking payments by charging vehicles a fee for access to passenger loading zones and smart loading zones.
- 7) Specifies that the local agency must post signage giving clear notice of the enhanced curb management system.
- 8) Allows a notice of parking violation to be served by mail without physical attachment to the vehicle if the violation is detected by an enhanced curb management system.
- 9) Requires the image data from a violation to be reviewed and approved by a peace officer or person authorized to enforce parking laws and requires that the notice of parking violation be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle no later than 15 calendar days after the date of the violation. The notice must include copies of the image data and information on how to view any image data, the violation details, and the procedure to pay or contest the citation.
- 10) Specifies that the system may collect only the minimum image data reasonably necessary to identify a vehicle license plate and the system must automatically obscure or blur portions of an image that do not depict the license plate or vehicle necessary for enforcement.
- 11) Prohibits an operator from providing image data to any individual, agency, or department from another state or to a federal agency, except when disclosure is required by federal law or a warrant is issued by a court of competent jurisdiction and specifies that failure to comply with the data sharing

restrictions shall result in excess revenue from the program being reverted to the Active Transportation Program.

- 12) Requires a local agency using the system to conduct a public information campaign for at least 60 days before issuing citations, only issue warning notices for the first 60 days of operation, and report periodically to the Legislature on the system's impact.
- 13) Provides that revenue from the program must be used first to recover program costs and then may only be used for parking management measures. Participating cities must maintain their existing commitment of local funds for curbside parking enforcement.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "Curb space is one of the most valuable and contested pieces of public right-of-way in California's cities. However, local governments currently lack adequate authority and tools to manage modern curb activity effectively. SB 1292 would allow cities to adopt ordinances to help more effectively manage passenger and commercial curb activity in high demand locations."
- 2) *Automated parking enforcement history.* Automated parking enforcement utilizes cameras to charge for parking and cite vehicles for parking violations. In California, automated parking technology is primarily used to enforce no-parking requirements in transit-only lanes, transit stops, and bike lanes. Originally, AB 101 (Ma, Chapter 377, Statutes of 2007) authorized San Francisco to establish a pilot program for video enforcement of parking violations in transit-only traffic lanes which expired January 1, 2012. The sunset was initially extended and then removed in 2015. AB 917 (Bloom, Chapter 709, Statutes of 2021) authorized all public transit operators to install automated forward-facing parking control devices on transit vehicles for the purposes of enforcing parking violations occurring in transit-only traffic lanes and at transit stops until January 1, 2027. AB 361 (Ward, Chapter 432, Statutes of 2023) authorized local agencies to install automated forward-facing parking control devices on city-owned or district-owned parking enforcement vehicles for the purpose of video imaging of parking violations occurring in bicycle lanes, until January 1, 2030.
- 3) *This bill takes a broader approach.* SB 1292 would authorize a five-year pilot for the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Inglewood, San Diego, and Long Beach to establish "Enhanced Curb Management Systems."

An Enhanced Curb Management System is a system of one or more stationary cameras that record images of vehicles for the purpose of enforcing parking violations or automating parking payments. The cameras would be permitted in passenger loading zones, commercial loading zones, smart loading zones, zero-emissions delivery zones, bicycle lanes, no stopping zones, and crosswalks. The cities within the pilot would be authorized to use the cameras to charge a fee for access to passenger loading zones and smart loading zones, but not commercial loading zones.

- 4) *The value of parking and cost of parking tickets.* In dense urban areas, parking spaces are a highly valuable and limited resource, and cities rely on tools like metering and parking enforcement to ensure they are used efficiently—encouraging turnover, reducing congestion, preserving access for residents, supporting nearby businesses, and maintaining availability for emergency vehicles, people with disabilities, and electric vehicle charging. However, while parking tickets help achieve these goals, they can also impose disproportionate financial burdens on low-income individuals, where even minor infractions can escalate into significant hardship, leading to mounting fines, withheld vehicle registration, or towing—ultimately restricting access to a car that may be essential for work, healthcare, and daily life, and exacerbating existing inequalities.
- 5) *Monetizing the curb.* California’s existing automated enforcement authorizations allow local jurisdictions to cite vehicles for violations—such as speeding, running a red light, or parking in a bus lane. In all these cases, the driver of the vehicle has presumably broken the law. In contrast, this bill allows automated enforcement for revenue generation (monetization). Thus, a camera in this program can photograph a license plate and issue a fee (as opposed to a fine) to the vehicle’s owner for pulling up to a curb, even if the driver was always in full compliance with the law. These cameras can be used essentially as automated parking meters.

SB 1292 would specifically allow the participating pilot cities to use these cameras to charge vehicles a fee for access to passenger loading zones and smart loading zones. Last year, Philadelphia launched Smart Loading Zones in 22 Center City locations, using Automotus’ (the sponsor of SB 1292) camera-based enforcement technology to manage curb space. Drivers registered for the CurbPass system pay 10 cents per minute (up to one hour) instead of receiving citations. Unregistered vehicles, or those exceeding the one-hour limit, face a \$51 fine after three minutes. Double parking results in a \$76 ticket.

- 6) *Loading zones.* This bill seeks to utilize automated enforcement to charge for access to loading zones. A loading zone is a specially marked, signed or designated area for the loading or unloading of vehicles. These zones are intentionally short-term in nature, ensuring the space remains available for a continuous cycle of vehicles needing quick access to the curb. The demand for dedicated loading space has grown as people increasingly rely on delivery and ride-hailing services. Loading zones often compete directly with regular on-street parking spaces. An on-street parking space can generate thousands of dollars annually in revenue, while many loading zones have little or no fee.
- 7) *Using cameras to enforce parking violations.* In addition to loading zone management, this bill would allow cities to use cameras to enforce parking prohibitions in no stopping zones, commercial loading zones, crosswalks, and bike lanes. It is illegal in California to park in a bike lane unless parking is explicitly permitted. This restriction improves safety for bicyclists, though concerns have been raised about rampant noncompliance with the law. State law also prohibits stopping or parking on a crosswalk, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or official traffic control device. Although automated enforcement may be able to more aggressively penalize illegal and unsafe parking, it also may not be able to account for some of the nuances in the law, such as a driver parking on a crosswalk at the direction of a peace officer.
- 8) *Privacy.* Opponents of automated enforcement broadly raise concerns about increased surveillance within daily life and the erosion of data privacy. Unlike speed cameras, stationary parking cameras typically capture far more than just a specific vehicle's license plate. They shoot images down a street, capturing the curb activity of a section of roadway and sidewalk. Moreover, the sponsor of the bill, Automotus, provides the camera technology and the associated payment and invoicing technology, called CurbPass. Drivers seeking to park in a "managed" parking spot must register with CurbPass and input their payment information. In order to mitigate data misuse concerns, this bill only allows image data collected by the system to be retained for 60 days after final disposition of a citation, six months after a paid session in a passenger loading zone or smart loading zone, or 30 days after the image was recorded if a citation is not issued or a fee is not charged.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1837 (Mark González, 2026) – This bill would make permanent a previously authorized pilot program that allows transit agencies to enforce parking violations in transit-only lanes and at transit stops using video images.

SB 532 (Wiener, Chapter 858, Statutes of 2024) – Authorized local authorities in the City and County of San Francisco, the City of Long Beach, or the City of Santa Monica to require payment of parking fees with a mobile device under specified conditions for five years or until January 1, 2033, whichever is sooner.

AB 361 (Ward, Chapter 432, Statutes of 2023) – Authorizes a local agency to install an automated forward facing parking control device on city-owned or district-owned parking enforcement vehicles for the purpose of video imaging or parking violations occurring in bicycle lanes, until January 1, 2030.

AB 917 (Bloom, Chapter 709, Statutes of 2021) – Authorized all public transit operators to install automated forward-facing parking control devices on transit vehicles for the purposes of enforcing parking violations occurring in transit-only traffic lanes and at transit stops until January 1, 2027.

SB 1051 (Hancock, Chapter 427, Statutes of 2016) – Authorized a pilot program for video enforcement of parking violations in transit-only traffic lanes.

AB 101 (Ma, Chapter 377, Statutes of 2007) – Authorized San Francisco to establish a pilot program for video enforcement of parking violations in transit-only traffic lanes which expired January 1, 2012.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

Automotus (co-source)
Streets for All (co-source)
California Contract Cities Association
California Mobility and Parking Association
City and County of San Francisco
City of Norwalk
City of Pico Rivera
Ipmi (international Parking and Mobility Institute)
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator

Move LA
Norwalk; City of
Santa Monica; City of
Streets are for Everyone
West Hollywood; City of

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

Oakland Privacy

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Writing in support, Automotus writes, “Curb space has become one of the most strained and valuable components of the public right-of-way in California’s communities. As e commerce deliveries, on demand services, ride hailing, and autonomous vehicle activity accelerate, our existing curb regulations have not kept pace. Research shows that commercial curb use now represents a majority of total activity in many cities, much of it occurring without compliance or effective oversight...SB 1292 offers a modern, locally controlled solution. By enabling jurisdictions to adopt enhanced curb management systems—with human review, due process protections, and strict limitations on data use—this bill provides a thoughtful, measured approach that aligns with California’s existing automated enforcement framework.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Writing in opposition, Oakland Privacy states, “To capture entire crosswalks, cameras will have to be bi-directional and obviously will capture images of people passing through the crosswalk as pedestrians on a regular basis. Unlike other pilot programs approved by the Legislature, this program has no expiration date and no limit on the number of cameras. This potentially could result in multiple cameras at every traffic intersection or a gauntlet that ensnares not only automobile drivers, but every pedestrian. This seems far beyond the goals of the bill as expressed in the legislative findings.”

Prepared by: Isabelle LaSalle / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
5/5/26 15:55:46

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1296
Author: Durazo (D)
Amended: 4/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab,
Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Alvarado-Gil

SUBJECT: Real property: rentals: pet policy

SOURCE: Michelson Center of Public Policy

DIGEST: This bill requires a landlord to disclose whether it allows pets in any advertisement, rental application, or lease agreement, requires landlords which allow pets to provide a copy of the pet policy or pet addendum, or a summary of it, with any rental application form, and requires that such pet policies include specified information.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law establishes the Fair Housing Act to prohibit the discrimination on the basis of disability in housing-related transactions, and require that a housing provider provide a reasonable accommodation to the person with a disability, which can include allowing the resident to keep a pet even if the provider otherwise does not allow pets (Title 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.)

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes generally the relations between and responsibilities of landlords and tenants in residential leases (leasing of real property). (Civil (Civ.) Code §§ 1940 et seq.)

- 2) Limits the amount of a security deposit a landlord can collect for a residential tenancy to no more than one month's rent, regardless of whether the property is furnished or unfurnished, except as specified. (Civ. Code § 1950.5 (c)(1).)
- 3) Specifies that, when a landlord or their agent receives a request to rent a residential property from an applicant, they may charge that applicant an application screening fee to cover the costs of obtaining information about the applicant, which may include, but is not limited to, personal reference checks and consumer credit reports. Limits this application screening fee to no more than the actual out-of-pocket costs of gathering the information concerning the applicant, and in no case to an amount greater than \$30 per applicant, adjustable for the increase in the Consumer Price Index. (Civ. Code § 1950.6.)
- 4) Specifies that a landlord may only charge an application screening fee when the application screening process complies with certain requirements, or when the landlord returns the application screening fee to any applicant not selected for tenancy, as specified. (Civ. Code § 1950.6(c).)
- 5) Prohibits a person or corporation that occupies, owns, manages, or provides services in connection with any real property that allows an animal on the premises from:
 - a) advertising the availability of real property for occupancy in a manner designed to discourage application for occupancy because the applicant's animal has not been declawed or devocalized;
 - b) refusing to allow or negotiate the occupancy of any real property, or otherwise making the real property unavailable to any person because of the person's refusal to declaw or devocalize any animal; and
 - c) requiring any tenant or occupant of real property to declaw or devocalize any animal allowed on the premises, as specified. (Civ. Code § 1942.7.)
- 6) Permits a city attorney, district attorney, or other law enforcement prosecutorial entity to enforce the provisions described in (5), above, through a civil action for declaratory or injunctive relief, and for civil penalties, as provided. (Civ. Code § 1942.7.)
- 7) Provides that a tenant has committed unlawful detainer when they continue in possession of the property without the landlord's permission after:

- a) the tenant remains in possession of the premises after the expiration of the term of the tenancy without permission of the landlord or otherwise not permitted by law;
 - b) the tenant's nonpayment of rent and service of a 3-day notice to pay or quit, stating the amount that is due;
 - c) the tenant has breached a covenant of the lease or failed to perform other conditions under the lease, and after service of a 3-day notice requiring performance of such covenants or conditions;
 - d) the tenant has breached a covenant of the lease prohibiting subletting, assignment, or waste; has committed or permitted a nuisance on the premises; or used the premises for an unlawful purpose; and
 - e) the tenant gives written notice of the tenant's intention to terminate the tenancy, but fails to deliver possession of the premises to the landlord at the specified time. (Code of Civ. Proc. § 1161.)
- 8) Establishes the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) that, among other things, requires providers of housing accommodations provide a reasonable accommodation to a tenant with a disability, including by accommodating a service animal that assists the individual with managing their disability. Specifies that denials of such requests for reasonable accommodations can only be denied for limited reasons, such as if the accommodation would be an undue financial and administrative burden on the landlord. (Government Code §§ 1299 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) Requires, if a landlord does not allow a tenant to keep pets on a residential rental property premises, that the landlord or their agent clearly disclose the no-pet policy in any advertisement, rental application, or lease agreement for the property. Requires this disclosure to include a statement that the no-pet policy does not apply to service animals or support animals that are required to be allowed on the premises pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act or the federal Fair Housing Act.
- 2) Requires, if a landlord allows a tenant to have a pet on the premises, that the landlord have a written pet policy, and that the landlord:
 - a) Provide a hyperlink or other electronic means to access the property's pet policy or pet addendum on the property's website, as part of any digital

- advertisement for the property that is in control of the landlord, and in any information provided by the landlord for a residential rental search engine; and
- b) Provide a written copy or summary of the pet policy or pet addendum with any rental application form, including electronically if the rental application is provided electronically.
- 3) Requires an established pet policy or pet addendum to include, to the extent applicable:
- a) any breed or weight restrictions;
 - b) any required fees, including their dollar amount, including upfront pet fees, refundable pet deposits, and monthly pet rent;
 - c) any limit on the number of pets allowed;
 - d) any vaccination requirements;
 - e) any liability insurance requirements; and
 - f) any other material rule, condition, or restriction applicable to a tenant keeping a pet at the property.
- 4) Specifies that a pet policy or pet addendum may not characterize any upfront pet fee as nonrefundable.
- 5) Permits a landlord to amend their established written pet policy or pet addendum prospectively, and specifies that, for purposes of its provisions, compliance shall be determined based on the established pet policy or pet addendum in effect at the time the rental application form is provided to a prospective applicant.
- 6) Specifies that a landlord shall not be liable for any omission, error, or failure to display the property's established written pet policy or pet addendum on a third-party website or platform if the third party obtained, scraped, or republished information from the property's website or digital advertisements without the express written permission of the landlord.
- 7) Specifies that a landlord substantially complies with these provisions if they provide a prospective applicant with the material terms of the property's established pet policy or addendum, and that a nonmaterial error or omission that is corrected upon notice does not constitute a violation of these provisions.

- 8) Requires that a rental application subject to these provisions include:
 - a) a notice that, if the landlord fails to provide a written pet policy or addendum as required, and as a result the applicant is no longer eligible to rent or declines to proceed, the applicant is entitled to a refund of the application fee; and a space for the prospective tenant to acknowledge receipt of the property's established pet policy or addendum.
- 9) Requires that, if a landlord or their agent charges an application fee but fails to disclose their pet policy before charging the fee and the applicant is no longer eligible to rent the unit because of the pet policy or declines to proceed with the application because of the pet policy, the landlord must refund the application fee within five business days after receiving written notice from the applicant.
- 10) Specifies that the refund of the application fee described in (9), above, is the sole remedy available under these provisions, and that these provisions do not create a private right of action for damages, penalties, injunctive relief, or attorney's fees.
- 11) Specifies that its provisions do not require a landlord to allow pets, to create a website, or to digitally advertise a rental unit.
- 12) Specifies that its provisions do not alter, limit, expand, or affect any obligation or right under state or federal laws relating to service animals, support animals, or other assistance animals.
- 13) Defines, for its purposes:
 - a) "landlord" to mean a person who owns or manages a residential real property, or their agent;
 - b) "pet" to mean an animal except for a service animal or support animal that a landlord is required to allow a tenant to have pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act or the federal Fair Housing Act;
 - c) "pet addendum" to mean a writing that is part of a lease agreement that sets forth the rules and conditions for maintaining pets on a residential rental property premises; and
 - d) "pet policy" to mean the rules and conditions for maintaining pets on a residential rental property that is in writing.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/30/2026)

Michelson Center for Public Policy (source)
Human Animal Bond Research Institute
Alma Family Services
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Animal Wellness Action
Barrio Action Youth and Family Center
Best Friends Animal Society
Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity
California Animal Welfare Association
California YIMBY
Center for a Humane Economy
Central City Neighborhood Partners
City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board
Coalition for Economic Survival
Humane Action Pennsylvania
Humane World for Animals
Inner City Struggle
Legacy LA
Miguel Contreras Foundation
Plaza De La Raza, Inc.
PowerCA Action
Proyecto Pastoral At Dolores Mission
San Diego Humane Society
Social Compassion in Legislation
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy
Valley Humane Society

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/30/2026)

Apartment Association of Orange County
East Bay Rental Housing Association
Southern California Rental Housing Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Michelson Center for Public Policy, which is the source of this bill:

Current law provides limited protections for pet-owning tenants, such as prohibiting landlords from requiring that an animal be declawed or

devocalized as a condition of occupancy. However, these protections do not address the lack of transparency regarding the disclosure of a property's full pet policy before an applicant pays an application fee. This results in prospective tenants losing nonrefundable application fees for units they were never eligible to inhabit due to undisclosed pet rules, including, but not limited to, breed or weight restrictions.

In California, 72% of renters say that pet-friendly housing is difficult to find, while 75% of renters believe the government should step in and make housing more pet-friendly. SB 1296 provides a critical solution, by requiring a landlord that allows tenants to have a pet on the premise, to provide applicants with a written copy or summary of the property's pet policy with any application form as well as include a link to its pet policy on the property's websites and digital advertisements. These disclosures must provide comprehensive details, including any breed or weight restrictions, upfront or monthly fees, vaccination requirements, and liability insurance needs.

By requiring clear and early disclosure of pet policies, SB 1296 removes unnecessary financial barriers for pet-owning renters and streamlines the application process for both parties. For these reasons, MCPP is pleased to sponsor SB 1296 and respectfully requests your "aye" vote.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the Southern California Rental Housing Association, which is opposed to this bill:

As drafted, SB 1296 imposes rigid and highly prescriptive disclosure requirements across multiple platforms, including websites, digital advertisements, rental applications, and physical postings. While larger property management companies may be able to absorb these requirements, smaller landlords—who make up a substantial portion of California's rental housing stock—will struggle to comply.

Additionally, the bill mandates a full refund of application fees if a pet policy is not disclosed prior to charging the fee, regardless of whether the omission was inadvertent or whether the applicant ultimately proceeds without a pet. This creates a disproportionate penalty for minor technical errors and invites unnecessary disputes. [...]

We respectfully request the following amendments to make the bill workable while preserving its intent:

Limit Disclosure to Primary Leasing Documents

Require pet policy disclosure only in the rental application or prior to lease execution, rather than in all advertisements and online listings.

Safe Harbor for Good-Faith Compliance

Provide a cure period (e.g., 5–10 days) allowing landlords to correct omissions before penalties apply.

Revise Application Fee Refund Requirement

Limit refunds to situations where:

- The applicant has a pet; and
- The undisclosed policy would have materially affected their decision to apply.

Allow Summary Disclosures

Permit a short-form summary of pet policies in advertisements, with a link or reference to full terms, rather than requiring complete details everywhere.

Clarify Control Over Third-Party Platforms

Specify that landlords are only responsible for disclosures on platforms they directly control, not third-party listing sites that may alter or truncate information.

Exemption or Reduced Requirements for Small Landlords

Consider a threshold (e.g., owners of 4 or fewer units) for simplified compliance obligations.

Prepared by: Ian Dougherty / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/1/26 13:13:07

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1306
Author: Cortese (D)
Introduced: 2/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Controlled substances: gamma-butyrolactone

SOURCE: SEMI

DIGEST: This bill exempts chemical mixtures containing 70 percent or less of gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) from specified requirements of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

- 1) Defines GBL as a List I Chemical of the federal Controlled Substances Act. (21 U.S.C., § 802, subd. (34)(X).)
- 2) Exempts chemical mixtures containing GBL at concentrations of 70 percent or less by weight or volume from specified Controlled Substances Act requirements. (21 C.F.R., § 1310.12 (2010).)

Existing state law:

- 1) Regulates the manufacture, sale, and distribution of specified chemical substances. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11000, et seq.)

- 2) Requires that any manufacturer or other person or entity in this California that sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes specified controlled substances, including GBL, to any person or entity in California or any other state shall submit a report to the Department of Justice (DOJ) of all of those transactions. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subd. (a).)
- 3) Requires that any manufacturer or other person or entity in this state, prior to selling, transferring, or otherwise furnishing specified controlled substances, including GBL, to any person or business entity in this state or any other state, shall require (i) a letter of authorization from that person or business entity that includes the currently valid business license number or federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration number, the address of the business, and a full description of how the substance is to be used, and (ii) proper identification from the purchaser. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subd. (c)(1)(a).)
- 4) Requires that any manufacturer or other person or entity in this state that exports specified controlled substances, including GBL, to any person or business entity located in a foreign country must submit to the DOJ a notification of that transaction, which must include the name and quantity of the substance to be exported and the name, address, and business identification number of the person or business entity located in a foreign country importing the substance. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subd. (c)(2)(A).)
- 5) Permits that the DOJ may authorize the submission of the notification on a monthly basis with respect to repeated, regular transactions between an exporter and an importer involving specified controlled substances, including GBL, if the DOJ determines that a pattern of regular supply of the substance exists between the exporter and importer and that the importer has established a record of utilization of the substance for lawful purposes. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subd. (c)(2)(B).)
- 6) Requires any manufacturer or other person or entity in this state that sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes specified controlled substances, including GBL, to a person or business entity in this state or any other state must submit a report of the transaction to the DOJ. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subd. (d)(1).)
- 7) Allows that the DOJ may authorize the submission of the reports on a monthly basis with respect to repeated, regular transactions between the furnisher and

the recipient involving the substance if the DOJ determines that a pattern of regular supply of the substance exists between the manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or other person or entity that sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes the substance and the recipient of the substance, and the recipient has established a record of utilization of the substance for lawful purposes. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subd. (d)(1).)

- 8) Provides that any person specified above who does not submit a report as required or who knowingly submits a report with false or fictitious information must be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or by both the fine and imprisonment. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subds. (f)(1).)
- 9) Makes a second conviction for the above offense punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a realigned felony, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, by a fine not exceeding \$100,000, or by both the fine and imprisonment. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100, subds. (f)(2).)
- 10) Requires that any manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or other person or entity in California that obtains specified controlled substances, including GBL, from a source outside of this state shall submit a report of that transaction to the DOJ 21 days in advance of obtaining the substance. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100.1, subd. (a).)
- 11) Makes failure to submit a report as required by the above paragraph punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100.1, subds. (b)(1).)
- 12) Makes a second conviction of the above offense punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a realigned felony, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, by a fine not exceeding 100,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11100.1, subds. (b)(2).)
- 13) Requires that any manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or any other person or entity in California that sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes specified controlled substances, including GBL, to a person or business entity in this state or any other state or who obtains the substance from a source outside of the state shall submit an application to, and obtain a permit for the conduct of that business from, the DOJ. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11106, subds. (a)(1)(A)-(B).)

- 14) Requires that an applicant pay an application fee determined by the DOJ which shall not exceed the application processing costs of the Department. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11106, subd. (h).)
- 15) Makes selling, transferring, or otherwise furnishing or obtaining specified controlled substances, including GBL, without a permit a misdemeanor or a felony. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11106, subd. (j).)

This bill:

- 1) Exempts chemical mixtures containing GBL from the provisions of California's Uniform Controlled Substance Act that impose the reporting, permitting, and other regulatory requirements described above.
- 2) Defines "chemical mixtures containing GBL" to mean two or more chemical substances, one of which is GBL (CAS no. 96-48-0) in a concentration of 70 percent or less by weight or volume, and at least one other substance that is not solely an inert carrier or an impurity.
- 3) Defines "Inert carrier" to mean "a chemical that does not interfere with the function of [GBL] (CAS no. 96-48-0) in the mixture but is present to aid in its delivery so it can be used in a chemical process."

Background

GBL is an industrial solvent that also can be used to manufacture gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), a central nervous system depressant. GBL is regulated under California's Uniform Controlled Substance Act (UCSA), meaning that manufacturers of GBL must comply with various reporting and regulatory requirements. (Health and Saf. Code, § 11100 (a)(34).) These requirements include permitting, reporting, recordkeeping, and 21-day transaction holds, the violation of which constitutes a misdemeanor. (See the existing law section of this analysis, above, for details regarding these requirements.)

GBL can dissolve substances that otherwise are difficult to dissolve and can maintain those substances in a dissolved state. Proponents of the bill say this solvent is uniquely useful for formulations known as "photoresists." Photoresists are chemical mixtures used in photolithography, a critical step in the manufacture of semiconductor chips. These photoresists contain other substances that are key to the functionality of the overall mixtures but that in the absence of GBL are

virtually impossible to maintain in the dissolved state necessary for that functionality. Accordingly, proponents say there is no feasible alternative to GBL in these photoresists.

GBL is also regulated as a List I chemical under the federal Controlled Substances Act, which is administered and enforced by the DEA. However, in 2010, under the Obama Administration, the U.S. DEA adopted regulations exempting chemical mixtures containing GBL at concentrations of 70 percent or less by weight or volume from specified Controlled Substances Act requirements. Based on the extremely low risk of diversion into GHB, in 2010 the DEA exempted the following two categories of GBL mixtures from the federal law's requirements: (1) mixtures containing 70% or less GBL; and (2) completely formulated coatings.

Because California has not adopted the same exemption as the federal DEA, it has left suppliers serving the semiconductor industry subject to the significant regulatory requirements described above, despite the low risk of diversion into GHB. Proponents of the bill claim these requirements create substantial operational delays for materials providers and semiconductor customers.

This bill exempts certain chemical mixtures containing GBL from the regulatory requirements of the UCSA, such as the permitting, reporting, recordkeeping, and 21-day transaction holds described above. In particular, the bill exempts chemical mixtures that are "two or more chemical substances, one of which is gamma-butyrolactone in a concentration of 70 percent or less by weight or volume, and at least one other substance that is not solely an inert carrier or an impurity." The bill defines "inert carrier" to mean "a chemical that does not interfere with the function of gamma-butyrolactone in the mixture but is present to aid in its delivery so it can be used in a chemical process." This language regarding inert carriers was added at the request of the DOJ to ensure that any mixture of GBL covered by this bill has a sufficiently low risk of diversion into GHB. This bill would align California policy with that of federal policy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

SEMI (source)

Bay Area Council

Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Society of Women Engineers at UCLA

Technet

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Reserve Peace Officers' Association
Claremont Police Officer Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver city Police Officers' Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriff's Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to SEMI:

The California Uniform Controlled Substances Act regulates pure gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), as well as chemical mixtures containing GBL, the latter of which are used in semiconductor photoresists. In 2010, the U.S. DEA determined that chemical mixtures containing 70 percent or less GBL do not present a significant risk of diversion (specifically, as a precursor of GHB, a nervous system depressant) and thus exempted those mixtures from specified federal Controlled Substances Act requirements. California has not adopted a comparable exemption, leaving semiconductor materials suppliers subject to burdensome and costly permitting, extensive reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and 21-day transaction holds that create unnecessary operational delays.

This regulatory misalignment directly impacts California's semiconductor ecosystem, including research, design, and specialty materials manufacturing concentrated in Silicon Valley and

supporting chip production nationwide. Semiconductor chips power essential technologies across healthcare, transportation, energy infrastructure, and communications. California leads the nation in semiconductor R&D, and the sector contributes more than \$100 billion annually to the state's economy. Ensuring reliable access to critical manufacturing inputs is essential to maintaining this leadership.

SB 1306 narrowly exempts chemical mixtures containing 70 percent or less GBL when regulatory requirements would apply solely due to the presence of GBL, while preserving existing controls on pure GBL. By aligning state policy with federal standards, this bill reduces unnecessary disruptions without compromising public safety.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the California Narcotics Officers' Association:

From a narcotics enforcement perspective, maintaining regulatory oversight of GBL is critical. Law enforcement agencies have repeatedly encountered GBL in clandestine settings where it is possessed, distributed, or marketed for human consumption. Its deregulation would create a substantial loophole, allowing individuals to lawfully obtain a substance that can be easily converted into a dangerous intoxicant with minimal technical knowledge.

SB 1306 would significantly hinder our ability to intervene in cases involving GHB analogs before harm occurs. Currently, regulatory controls provide an essential legal tool that allows officers to disrupt distribution networks, seize hazardous materials, and prevent downstream criminal activity. Removing these safeguards would force law enforcement to wait until after conversion, possession, or harm occurs — undermining proactive policing and increasing risks to the public. GBL has been linked to cases of drug-facilitated sexual assault due to its rapid onset, sedative effects, and difficulty of detection. Weakening controls over a known GHB “date-rape” drug precursor would likely increase availability in illicit markets and exacerbate these already serious concerns.

Prepared by: Marshal Lawler / PUB. S. /
4/28/26 16:33:40

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1307
Author: Jones (R)
Amended: 4/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SUBJECT: False or forged instruments

SOURCE: San Diego County District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a defendant who was convicted of knowingly filing, registering, or recording a false or forged instrument to stipulate to the voiding of the false or forged instrument in lieu of a hearing on a motion to void the false or forged instrument.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that every person who knowingly procures or offers any false or forged instrument to be filed, registered, or recorded in any public office within this state, which instrument, if genuine, might be filed, registered, or recorded under any law of this state or of the United States, is guilty of a felony. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 115, subd. (a).)
- 2) Provides that each instrument which is procured or offered to be filed, registered, or recorded constitutes a separate violation. (Pen. Code, § 115, subd. (b).)
- 3) Generally prohibits probation from being granted probation or suspending the execution or imposition of sentence, for any of the following persons:

- a) Any person with a prior conviction for knowingly filing a false or forged instrument who is again convicted of a violation in a separate proceeding.
 - b) Any person who is convicted of more than one violation of knowingly filing a false or forged instrument in a single proceeding, with intent to defraud another, and where the violations resulted in a cumulative financial loss exceeding \$100,000. (Pen. Code, § 115, subd. (c).)
- 4) Provides that each act of procurement or of offering a false or forged instrument to be filed, registered, or recorded is considered a separately punishable offense. (Pen. Code, § 115, subd. (d).)
 - 5) Requires the court, after a person is convicted of a violation, or a plea is entered whereby a charge alleging a violation is dismissed and waiver is obtained pursuant to *People v. Harvey* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 754, upon written motion of the prosecuting agency, to issue a written order, after a hearing, that the false or forged instrument be adjudged void ab initio if the court determines that an order is appropriate under applicable law. Requires the order to state whether the instrument is false or forged, or both, and describe the nature of the falsity or forgery. (Pen. Code, § 115, subd. (e)(1).)
 - 6) Provides that if the order pertains to a false or forged instrument that has been recorded with a county recorder, an order must be recorded in the county where the affected real property is located. Requires the order to also reference the county recorder's document recording number of any notice of pendency of action recorded. (Pen. Code, § 115, subd. (e)(2)(A).)
 - 7) Specifies the procedures a prosecuting agency must follow in filing a motion to void the false or forged instrument. (Pen. Code, § 115, subd. (f).)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that instead of holding the hearing to void the false or forged instrument, a defendant charged with knowingly filing a false or forged instrument may stipulate to the voiding of the false or forged instrument.
- 2) Requires the court, after the prosecution has established by clear and convincing evidence that there are no interested parties that would be adversely affected by voiding the instrument, to issue a written order that the false or forged instrument be adjudged void ab initio if the court determines that an order is appropriate under applicable law.

Background

Penal Code section 115 makes it a felony to knowingly procure or offer any false or forged instrument to be filed, registered, or recorded in any public office within this state. The purpose of Section 115 is to preserve the integrity of public documents. (*People v. Denman* (2013) 218 Cal.App.4th 800, 808.) The statute differentiates between false and forged documents but clearly proscribes either kind of instrument. (*Generes v. Justice Court* (1980) 106 Cal.App.3d 678, 682.)

A forgery is a “writing which falsely purports to be the writing of another, . . .” made with the “intent to defraud.” (*Wutzke v. Bill Reid Painting Service, Inc.* (1984) 151 Cal.App.3d 36, 41-42.) A false instrument is one that has “the effect of defrauding one who acts on the instrument as genuine.” (*Generes, supra*, at p. 682.) In the context of a deed, the court explained the notion of a false deed:

Here the lack of an ownership interest in the land goes to the deception itself. If *Generes* did not own the interest she purported to convey, the instrument she filed was clearly false. Having no right to grant or convey an easement, her recording of a deed transferring an easement would establish a cloud on the title of those persons who lawfully owned interests in the land. A title searcher encountering the spurious document who acted upon it as genuine would of course be materially deceived. (*Ibid.*)

Penal Code Section 115 outlines a process for a false or forged instrument to be declared void after a person is convicted of knowingly filing, registering, or recording a false or forged instrument. Section 115 requires the prosecutor to file a motion within 10 calendar days of filing a criminal complaint or indictment for a violation of Section 115, alleging an instrument is false, forged, or both. The prosecutor must send written notice by certified mail to all those who may have an interest in the property. If the instrument sought to be declared void is real property, interested parties include, but are not limited to, all parties who have recorded with the county recorder in the county where the affected property is located: a deed, lien, mortgage, deed of trust, security interest, lease, or other instrument declaring an interest in the property affected by the false or forged instrument.

The notice must inform the parties of their right to be heard when the motion is brought and give a description of the property. The prosecutor is also required to

file a notice in the county where the real property is located. If the case is adjudicated or dismissed without obtaining an order to void the false or forged instrument, the prosecution must withdraw the notice to the county within 10 calendar days. Failure to provide notice does not prevent the prosecution from seeking the motion but is grounds for the court to grant additional time to interested parties.

The court must set a hearing for the motion no earlier than 90 calendar days from the date the motion is made. At the hearing, the prosecutor, defendant, and interested parties have a right to be heard and present information to the court. If the court determines that in the interest of justice, the matter should be more appropriately settled in a civil proceeding, the court may decline to make a determination on the motion. The court may also consider any quiet title action filed prior to the hearing as an additional but not dispositive factor in making its determination. However, a final judgment previously entered in that quiet title action must be followed to the extent required by law.

This bill authorizes a defendant who was convicted of knowingly filing, registering, or recording a false or forged instrument to stipulate to the voiding of the false or forged instrument in lieu of a hearing on a motion to void the false or forged instrument.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/20/26)

San Diego County District Attorney's Office (source)
California District Attorneys Association
District Attorney of Orange County
Fidelity National Title Company
Riverside County District Attorney
San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/20/26)

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
4/21/26 16:19:41

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1311
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 3/26/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 3/23/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Licensed Professions

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This is an urgency bill that makes various conforming changes to existing requirements for unlicensed dental assistants (DAs) to complete an infection control course and makes technical changes to the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program, board appointments under the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, and contract requirements under the Private Investigator Act.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Regulates the practice of dentistry and establishes the Dental Board of California (DBC) to administer and enforce the Dental Practice Act. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 1600-1976)
- 2) Defines a Dental Assistant (DA) as an individual without a license who may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist that has technically elementary characteristics, are completely reversible and are unlikely to cause potentially hazardous conditions for the patient being treated. (BPC § 1750 (a))

- 3) Requires the supervising licensed dentist to be directly responsible for determining the competency of the DA to perform the basic supportive dental procedures, and responsible for ensuring the DA has successfully completed a board-approved eight-hour course in infection control prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials. (BPC § 1750 (b-c))
- 4) Defines “direct supervision” to mean the supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who shall be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures. (BPC § 1741 (k))
- 5) Defines “general supervision” to mean supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist but not requiring the physical presence of the supervising dentist during the performance of those procedures. (BPC § 1741 (l))
- 6) Authorizes a DA to perform specified duties under the direct supervision and pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a licensed dentist. (BPC § 1750.1 (b) (1-18))
- 7) Defines an infection control course as providing theory and clinical application in infection control practices and principles where the protection of the public is its primary focus. An unlicensed DA not enrolled in a board-approved program for registered dental assisting or an alternative dental assisting program shall complete either a board-approved eight-hour course, with six hours being didactic instruction and two hours being laboratory instruction or a board-approved eight-hour course, with six hours of didactic instruction and at least two hours of laboratory instruction using video or a series of video training tools, all of which may be delivered using asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanisms. (BPC § 1755)
- 8) Establishes the Medical Practice Act to regulate the practice of medicine by the Medical Board of California (MBC) within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). (BPC §§ 2000-2529.8.1)
- 9) Establishes the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program, which authorizes up to 30 licensed physicians from Mexico to practice medicine in California for a period not to exceed three years and requires applicants to submit an applicant to the MBC between October 1, 2020, and December 1, 2025, except that the MBC may accept up to 15 applications after December 31, 2025, and before January 1, 2028. (BPC § 2125 (g)(1)(C))

- 10) Establishes the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act to be administered by the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) within DCA and specifies the VMB be comprised of nine members – four licensed veterinarians, two registered veterinary technicians, and three public members. (BPC §§ 4800-4920.8)
- 11) Requires a veterinary technician to furnish satisfactory evidence of minimum education, as specified. (BPC § 4841.5(a)(4)(B))
- 12) Establishes the Private Investigator Act (Act), which vests with the director of the DCA, and by delegation, the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS), the responsibility to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act. (BPC §§ 7512-7573.5)
- 13) Requires every agreement to provide a service regulated by the Act, including, but not limited to, contract agreements and investigative agreements, to be in writing and include specified information, including the approximate state and completion dates of the work to be provided. (BPC § 7254 (a)(3))

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes unlicensed DAs, in order to comply with infection control course completion requirements, to complete either the Dental Assisting National Board's Infection Control examination or:
 - a) a Dental Board-approved infection control course provided by a board-approved registered dental assisting education program
 - b) a Dental Board-approved infection control course that complies with existing Dental Board regulations
 - c) an asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanism course offered by either the California Dental Association or a provider approved by the California Dental Association; the American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program or; the Academy of General Dentistry's Program Approval for Continuing Education
- 2) Specifies that laboratory instruction means, for purposes of laboratory learning via an asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanism course, instruction in which students perform procedures using study models, mannequins, or other simulation methods.
- 3) Extends the application period for the Licensed Physicians from Mexico program to between October 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026, except that 15 applications may be accepted after July 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2028.
- 4) Makes technical changes to the VMB composition and appointing authorities.

- 5) Adds education provided by a California public school as acceptable evidence of minimum education competency for registration as a veterinary technician.
- 6) Clarifies that a private investigator master agreement for frequently contracted services over a specified period of time shall be exempt from including beginning and termination dates of the work to be performed.
- 7) States that this bill is urgent and necessary to take effect immediately to allow the MBC to timely accept applications from eligible participants for the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program pursuant to AB 2860 (Chapter 246 of the Statutes of 2024), to provide clarity for licensing enforcement and services required to be rendered only through a written contract under the Act pursuant to SB 1454 (Chapter 484 of the Statutes of 2024), to ensure the CVMB has a complete composition pursuant to AB 1502 (Chapter 195 of the Statutes of 2025), and to further ensure the CVMB has timely and complete requirements to evaluate applicants to become a registered veterinary technician, it is necessary that this bill go into immediate effect. Unlicensed DAs are currently required to take an eight-hour course prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures that would have potential exposure to infectious materials. There have been issues preventing the establishment of the eight-hour course virtually and the eight-hour course is not readily available in many parts of the state, especially remote and rural areas already experiencing access and workforce shortage issues. To mitigate these outcomes, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

Background

The DBC licenses an estimated 112,000 dental professionals, of which 43,000 are fully licensed dentists; 46,000 are registered DAs; and 2,300 are registered dental assistants in extended functions. The DBC is also responsible for setting the duties and functions of an estimated 50,000 unlicensed DAs.

DAs are unlicensed, thus not registered with the DBC or directly regulated by the DBC. These individuals work under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist and assist that dentist with basic supportive procedures that are reversible and not likely to cause hazardous conditions for the patient being treated. Although unlicensed, these individuals are required to complete training and courses aimed at ensuring patient safety.

In 2024, DBC was subject to the Legislature's sunset review oversight process, which culminated in the passage of SB 1453 (Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024), the DBC sunset bill. SB 1453 made significant changes to unlicensed DA practice. In response to concerns about dental workforce shortages, AB 481

(Carrillo of 2023) would have created new licensure pathways and expanded the duties of DAs. Proponents cited data from DBC showing that half of the state's 58 counties are experiencing a shortage of dental assistants and noted a 2021 survey that found 44% of providers indicated that trouble filling vacant positions limited their practice's ability to treat more patients. SB 1453 incorporated provisions of AB 481 that DBC could effectively implement, including various changes to the education, scope of practice, and regulation of dental auxiliaries, including DAs.

SB 1453 established the requirement that all unlicensed DAs who are not enrolled in a DBC-approved or alternative dental assisting program must complete an infection control course prior to the unlicensed DA performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials. The bill specified that the course must be comprised of six hours of didactic instruction and two hours of laboratory instruction and authorized the course to be offered either in-person or using a video or a series of video training tools, all of which may be delivered using asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanisms. SB 1453 took effect on January 1, 2025.

In the months before SB 1453 took effect, despite being involved in every single aspect of the bill and having opportunities to weigh in about barriers to effective implementation of the measure, including language surrounding the infection-control course, DBC began to publicly discuss issues that DBC staff said prevented key provisions of SB 1453 from taking effect. While the statute clearly and intentionally outlined a separate set of standards for the unlicensed DA infection control course, DBC staff expressed concerns at DBC meetings that this course would not meet the same standards as other courses required for DBC licensees and registrants. It should be noted, unlicensed DAs only perform basic supportive dental procedures, defined as those procedures that have technically elementary characteristics, are completely reversible, and are unlikely to precipitate potentially hazardous conditions for the patient being treated. Despite this fact, DBC cited additional concerns.

DBC staff said that the hours in the infection control course could not be met by existing DBC-approved course providers, despite the likely ability for course providers to update content to comply with the statutory requirements and receive updated approval to offer this specific course.

DBC also took umbrage with the fact that DBC was not provided authority to approve, deny, or withdraw approval for the SB 1453-created course, authority DBC has in regulations for oversight of programs created for registered DAs. Rather than explore alternatives to ensure program integrity for this one specific,

statutorily prescribed course, DBC said it could not be implemented because DBC didn't have a process the same as its process for other courses.

SB 1453 authorized two hours of instruction to be delivered using asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanisms or a combination thereof, but DBC said that is not enough and said it needed to meet requirements for the existing infection control course that requires hands-on laboratory activities like hand washing and glove use, despite the statute clearly establishing a different course and different course pathway for unlicensed DAs.

DBC also noted that there are no examination requirements, despite the intended course participants being unlicensed DAs who are not required to demonstrate competency through formal examination prior to performing their duties, as their competency is determined at the discretion of the supervising dentist.

This bill is intended to respond to DBC's determination that provisions of SB 1453 are not implementable, and among other changes, codify DBC regulations related to course approval, instruction, oversight, examinations, and more. The bill also updates current law to specify that a DA must complete the infection control course on or before 60 days from the first day of employment and specifies that, prior to the DAs exposure to any potentially infectious materials, a bloodborne pathogen training is required to be provided by the employer.

MBC, CVMB, and BSIS Amendments. The amendments to: 1) extend the timeframe for the MBC to accept applications from participants in the Mexico Pilot Program for a few months in case anything goes awry with the visa process or to allow for other contingencies; 2) make necessary and technical changes to the CNMB's composition and appointing authorities; and 3) clarify provisions for private investigators to provide contracts in the event of an investigation, while technical in nature, are time-sensitive and critical to the effective operations of each program and thus, are appropriate and necessary for inclusion in this urgency measure.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/14/26)

California Association of Licensed Investigators
California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
California Association of Orthodontists
California Dental Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/14/26)

California Dental Assisting Alliance

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Dental Association (CDA) notes that, “The limited availability of in-person courses, especially in rural and underserved areas, already struggling with workforce shortages, creates significant hiring delays. As a result, some candidates pursue jobs in other industries, further reducing the dental workforce. This challenge not only worsens staffing shortages in dental practices but also limits patient access to care.”

The California Association of Licensed Investigators writes, “The California Association of Licensed Investigators [CALI] appreciates the provision added to SB 1311 on March 26 to clarify Business and Professions Code Section 7524 and we support the measure as amended. SB 1311 would acknowledge and address the master agreements licensed private investigators have with many of their clients for frequently contracted services over extended periods of time.”

The California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons writes, “This bill provides a reasonable and balanced update to existing law by allowing dental assistants to meet infection control requirements through either a board-approved course or by successfully completing the Dental Assisting National Board’s Infection Control examination. It also introduces flexibility in course delivery by permitting a portion of required instruction to be completed through video-based training tools, while preserving hands-on laboratory components.”

The California Association of Orthodontists writes that, “At a time when dental practices continue to face workforce challenges, SB 1311 provides sensible flexibility without compromising patient safety or professional standards. Supporting multiple pathways to demonstrate infection control competency will help maintain a well-trained dental workforce that continues to meet California’s high standards of patient care.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Dental Assisting Alliance believes the bill conflicts with and undermines the Dental Board’s mission. They say that the bill removes DBC from the regulatory process; replaces course requirements with examination only; eliminates hands-on training and creates inconsistency between pathway options.

Prepared by: Yeaphana La Marr / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
4/14/26 16:16:13

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1312
Author: Richardson (D)
Introduced: 2/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/13/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar,
Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Cemetery and Funeral Bureau: advisory committee

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau (Bureau) to establish an advisory committee, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Cemetery and Funeral Act (Act) which provides for the licensing and oversight of 14 professional categories within the death care industry. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 7600 *et seq.*)
- 2) Requires the Bureau to adopt regulations that establish minimum standards of maintenance for endowment care cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Bureau. (BPC § 7612.4(a))
- 3) Requires the Bureau on or before March 1, 2026, to convene a workgroup comprised of representatives from the cemetery industry, county government, and other interested stakeholders to discuss options for ensuring continued care, maintenance, and embellishment of abandoned cemeteries, including the

possibility of requiring counties to assume responsibility for cemeteries located within their boundaries that become abandoned. (BPC § 7612.12(a))

- 4) Requires the Bureau to submit a report to the Legislature summarizing its discussions and potential recommendations resulting from the workgroup on abandoned cemeteries on or before June 1, 2026. (BPC 7612.12(b))

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes the Bureau to establish an advisory committee to assist the Bureau in engaging consumers and licensees in its regulatory activities.
- 2) Requires the Bureau if it chooses to establish an advisory committee, to include at a minimum, a representative of the death care industry, a member of the public, and a representative of local governments.

Background

Cemetery and Funeral Bureau. The Bureau licenses, regulates, and investigates complaints against California funeral establishments, funeral directors, embalmers, apprentice embalmers, cemetery brokers, cemetery salespersons, cremated remains disposers, crematories, crematory managers, cemetery managers, hydrolysis facilities, cemetery brokers and privately-owned cemeteries in the state. The Bureau has oversight responsibility for both the fiduciary and operational activities of its licensing population. The Bureau does not have authority over cemeteries operated by religious organizations, cities, counties, or cemetery districts, the military or tribal governments.

Cemetery Oversight. A Bureau-licensed cemetery is any private, non-religious cemetery established after 1939. Any cemetery established after September 7, 1955, is required to be an endowment care cemetery (Health and Safety Code § 8739.1). An endowment care cemetery is one in which a portion of the purchase price is contributed to an endowment care fund. Income generated from the fund provides for the regular care of the cemetery, including routine maintenance such as cutting grass, grave upkeep, caring for trees, maintenance of water supply systems, roads, drainage, etc. The minimum amount to be contributed to the endowment care fund is provided in Health and Safety Code § 8738. Endowment care funds are collected no later than at completion of the initial sale. The intent of endowment care is to ensure that the maintenance and care of cemetery grounds are continuous to help prevent cemeteries from falling into disrepair. The Bureau

has the authority to inspect and audit endowment care funds and licensed cemeteries are required to report annually the status and conditions of such funds (BPC § 7612.6).

When it comes to operating a cemetery, there are typically two licenses involved: 1) the cemetery manager who is the person engaged in the maintenance, operations, and improvements of a licensed cemetery and 2) the cemetery authority, which includes cemetery association, corporation sole, limited liability company, or other person owning or controlling the cemetery lands or property. When the Bureau revokes a cemetery authority license, the Bureau's regulatory jurisdiction over that business or individual ends. However, cemeteries are unique in that the Bureau can revoke the license, but the "business" does not end. There is still a piece of land or real estate wherein deceased people are buried, or people have pre-purchased plots or other spaces that must be maintained. The Bureau's jurisdiction over a revoked or lapsed cemetery license remains only to approve interments as specified in BPC § 7653.1 and pursuant to Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations § 2332. The endowment care funds associated with that cemetery must remain as trust funds and can only be used for the purpose for which they were intended.

During the Bureau's 2024 sunset review, the Bureau's 2024 sunset background paper highlighted the complex issue of "abandoned cemeteries" where there is no longer a licensee who is responsible for oversight of the cemetery, which led to the question on what steps could be taken to ensure that older cemeteries are appropriately and respectfully maintained by another entity after they have been abandoned by a licensee or when a license has been revoked and there is no longer a responsible entity?

Current law authorizes a court to appoint a temporary licensed cemetery manager to manage the property and serve prepaid interments. If the court has not appointed a temporary manager within six months of the suspension, revocation, or surrender of the license, the county may assume responsibility. The Bureau notes that typically when a cemetery is within city limits, a county will not utilize this authority and defer to the city. Statute additionally allows a city or county to perform maintenance within a cemetery when its license has been revoked, suspended, or not renewed. This law only applies to maintenance necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. In other words, dry weeds creating a fire hazard would be addressed, but not necessarily aesthetic upkeep to grounds and embellishments, which while not a matter of safety are important for communities whose families are interred in the cemetery. Local governments are not required to

act following the abandonment of a cemetery but are merely permitted to under certain circumstances. The Bureau points out that when a cemetery is proposed to be created, the local government in which it will be situated has to authorize and zone a parcel of land as cemetery property with approval to intern decedents. Local authorities are responsible for determining whether a piece of property within their communities will be dedicated as cemetery property, and local governments know that there is no guarantee that a private cemetery business will remain active forever.

In its 2024 Sunset Review Report, the Bureau suggested that the Legislature consider amending current law to vest the responsibility of perpetual care with the jurisdiction that authorized the operation of a cemetery upon abandonment. While the issue of responsibility continues to evade an easy solution, individuals who have loved ones buried or interred at the cemetery, or those with prepaid funeral services face challenges with access to and the care of the final resting place of loved ones.

To help determine a practicable resolution to the vexing challenge of abandoned privately-owned cemeteries, AB 3254 (Berman, Chapter 589, Statutes of 2024) required the Bureau to convene a workgroup by July 1, 2027. The workgroup was to be comprised of representatives from the cemetery industry, county government, and other interested stakeholders to discuss options for ensuring continued care, maintenance, and embellishment of abandoned cemeteries, including the possibility of requiring counties to assume responsibility for cemeteries located within their boundaries that become abandoned. That bill also required the Bureau to report on the workgroup's discussions and recommendations no later than January 1, 2028, in advance of its next sunset review.

To expedite the work of the workgroup, SB 777 (Richardson, Chapter 658, Statutes of 2025) specified who, at a minimum, should be included as stakeholder participants of the workgroup and moved up the date of which the workgroup needed to meet from July 1, 2027, to March 1, 2026. The workgroup met on January 21, 2026, and the subsequent report is currently pending.

Advisory Committee. While statute does not provide for an advisory committee, the Bureau has voluntarily established an advisory committee to increase transparency and communication between the Bureau, consumers, and the death care industry. The advisory committee meetings are a forum for both consumers and licensees to provide input on funeral- and cemetery-related issues and assist the Bureau in addressing its regulatory obligations in an open and transparent environment.

The advisory committee consists of seven members appointed to two-year terms with the possibility of an extension for an additional two-year term. Four members represent the industry, and three members represent the public. The Bureau Chief selects and appoints the members with approval from the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs. The members, who volunteer on their own time and at their own expense, serve in an advisory capacity only, making nonbinding recommendations directly to the Bureau Chief. This bill would add statutory authority for the Bureau to appoint an advisory committee. However, should the Bureau choose to appoint an advisory committee, the Bureau would be required to appoint representatives from the death care industry, the public and local governments.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
4/28/26 16:33:41

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1315
Author: Cabaldon (D)
Amended: 4/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Padilla, Niello, Becker, Menjivar, Richardson, Rubio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Drive My Car Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires an automobile manufacturer to notify the California Department of Insurance (CDI) and automobile insurers of software updates for vehicles equipped with advanced autonomous driving systems, as defined.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Creates CDI, headed by the Insurance Commissioner.
- 2) Provides that CDI generally regulates the business of insurance, including automobile insurance.
- 3) Defines “autonomous vehicle” (AV) as a vehicle equipped with technology making it capable of operation that meets the definition of Levels 3, 4, or 5 of

the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International's Taxonomy and Testing of Autonomous Vehicles Definitions for Terms Related to Driving Automation Systems for On-Road Motor Vehicles, standard J3016.

- 4) Defines within the Vehicle Code “advanced driver assistance system” (ADAS) as Level 2 of SAE International’s Taxonomy and Definitions for Terms Related to Driving Automation Systems for On-Road Motor Vehicles, standard J3016.
- 5) Prohibits a vehicle from being equipped with a device that is specifically designed, marketed, or used for, neutralizing, disabling, or otherwise interfering with a driver monitoring system that is engaged when drivers are utilizing advanced driver assistance system features or autonomous technology, as defined.

This bill:

- 1) Defines “Advanced Autonomous Driving System” as a vehicle system that meets the definition of SAE Level 2, SAE Level 3 (Conditional Driving Automation), SAE Level 4 (High Driving Automation), or SAE Level 5 (Full Driving Automation), as defined by the Society of Automotive Engineers International standard J3016, as that standard may be amended from time to time.
- 2) Provides definitions for vehicles possessing automated driving systems from SAE Level 2 through SAE Level 5, as specified.
- 3) Requires an automobile manufacturer to notify CDI and automobile insurers of any software updates to vehicle models equipped with an advanced autonomous driving system.
- 4) Makes related findings and declarations.

Background

AV regulation in California. Under California law, AVs are defined as vehicles that meet SAE Level 3, 4, or 5 standards. This includes any vehicle that, at a minimum, can conduct most driving tasks by itself under certain environmental conditions without human intervention. Importantly, Level 3, 4, and 5 vehicles do not include common vehicle safety features such as automatic braking, lane keep assist, or adaptive cruise control. Vehicles with these systems are considered Level

2 vehicles under SAE standards, and thus do not qualify as AVs. This extends to what are commonly referred to as “Level 2+” or “Level 2 ADAS” vehicles, that package many of these features together to offer AV-like services.

In 2012, the Legislature passed SB 1298 (Padilla, Chapter 570, Statutes of 2012) which permitted AVs to operate on public roads for testing by a driver under certain conditions. Since that time, AVs have been regulated by two state government entities. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regulates the testing, operation, and deployment of AVs, while the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates commercial robotaxi services. In order for any AV manufacturer to apply for CPUC robotaxi permits, they must first have full DMV permits.

DMV offers two different types of AV permits. The first type is a testing permit, which allows manufacturers to test AVs on California roads for internal research purposes. The second type of permits are deployment permits, that allow manufacturers to deploy AVs on California roads more broadly for both private and commercial use. Currently, the DMV is undergoing new rounds of AV rulemaking. The set of proposed regulations is aimed at authorizing new permit types and tackling existing safety concerns. Primarily, these rules will add a new permit type for heavy-duty vehicles, over 10,000 pounds in gross weight, for commercial purposes. The rules are also focused on expanding data reporting, especially for deployment permits, improving law enforcement interactions with AVs, and requiring proper licensure for safety drivers.

ADAS and ADS. Under SAE AV definitions, there are key differences between each level of vehicular autonomy. Levels 1 and 2 provide ADAS features that offer assistance to a human driver such as lane-keeping assistance, adaptive cruise control, and automatic emergency braking. Ultimately, under levels 0-2, these technologies are intended to assist the human driver, require human supervision, and the driver remains responsible for vehicle operation. Under existing law and regulations, levels 0-2 vehicles are not considered AVs. On the other hand, automated driving systems (ADS) are technologies designed to perform the entire dynamic driving task without a human driver. ADS equipped vehicles can operate autonomously under a variety of conditions and are considered vehicles in levels 3 through level 5. Under levels 3 through 5, the ADS system takes full control of the vehicle and the human(s) in the vehicle is/are not completely responsible for the operation of the vehicle.

Vehicle software upgrades and updates. Most contemporary vehicles today possess some form of software to assist with the operation of a vehicle. Based on the vehicle's SAE classification, the software and hardware in the vehicle will gradually be more complex and sophisticated. For example, with Level 2 ADAS vehicles, software is utilized to enhance the vehicle's capabilities and safety features. Updates/upgrades may include the following:

- 1) *Improving the vehicle's ability to detect and respond to hazards.* By updating the software, the vehicle can learn from its driving behavior and improve its ability to anticipate and react to potential dangers.
- 2) *Enhancing the vehicle's performance.* Software updates can optimize the vehicle's performance, such as improving the responsiveness of the steering and braking systems.
- 3) *Integrating new technologies.* Upgrades can introduce new technologies and features that were not available in the vehicle's original configuration.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 572 (Gonzalez, 2025). Requires, contingent on repeal of an applicable federal order, a manufacturer of a vehicle with specified advanced driver assistance system technology to report accident data to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 33 (Aguiar-Curry, 2025). Prohibits an autonomous vehicle without a human safety operator from delivering commercial goods directly to a residence or to a business for its use or retail sale, as specified. On the Senate Floor Inactive File.

AB 316 (Aguiar-Curry, 2023). Restricts an autonomous vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or more from being operated on public roads for testing purposes, transporting goods, or transporting passengers without a human safety operator physically present in the autonomous vehicle at the time of operation. Vetoed by the Governor.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None Received

Prepared by: Brandon Seto / INS. / (916) 651-4110
5/5/26 15:55:47

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1344
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Civil actions: housing development projects

SOURCE: Attorney General Rob Bonta

DIGEST: This bill provides a mechanism for a defendant in a civil action, including under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), challenging a project that is a priority care development project, as defined, to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project, and raises the amount the undertaking can be to no more than \$1,000,000. This bill also creates a special motion to strike a challenge to the approval or permitting of a priority care development project modeled after California's anti-Strategic Lawsuit against Public Participation (anti-SLAPP) statute.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed discretionary project to prepare a negative declaration, mitigated declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from CEQA (CEQA includes various statutory

exemptions, as well as categorical exemptions in the CEQA Guidelines). (Public Resources Code § 21100 et seq.)

- 2) Sets requirements relating to the preparation, review, comment, approval and certification of environmental documents, as well as procedures relating to an action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul various actions of a public agency on the grounds of noncompliance with CEQA. (Pub. Res. Code § 21165 et seq.)
- 3) Authorizes judicial review of CEQA actions taken by public agencies, following the agency's decision to carry out or approve the project, and specifies certain time periods in which an action must be instituted depending on the type of claim alleged. (Pub. Res. Code § 21167.)
- 4) Requires the superior court and court of appeal to provide lawsuits related CEQA preference over all other civil actions therein, in the matter of setting the same for hearing or trial, and in hearing the same, to the end that the action or proceeding is to be quickly heard and determined. (Pub. Res. Code § 21167.1(a).)
- 5) Provides that in all civil actions, including those brought by any plaintiff to challenge a housing development project which is a development project which meets or exceeds the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing, a defendant may apply to the court by noticed motion for an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and any damages that may be incurred by the defendant by the conclusion of the action or proceeding as the result of a delay in carrying out the development project if the bringing of the action has the effect of preventing or delaying the project from being carried out. (Code of Civil Procedure § 529.9(a).)
 - a) Provides that a defendant seeking a security must make a motion for that security on the grounds that the action is without merit and was brought in bad faith, vexatiously, for the purpose of delay, or to thwart the low- or moderate-income nature of the housing development project. (*Ibid.*)
 - b) Authorizes the plaintiff, in response to a motion for an undertaking, to seek to limit the amount of the undertaking by presenting admissible evidence that filing an undertaking will cause it, and in cases where the plaintiff is an unincorporated association, its members, to suffer undue economic hardship. (*Id* at subd. (b).)
- 6) Requires the court, if the court determines after a hearing that the grounds for the motion have been established, to order the plaintiff to file the undertaking in an amount specified in the court's order, taking into consideration any

admitted evidence of plaintiff's economic hardship and avoiding to cause the plaintiff to suffer undue economic hardship, as security for costs and damages of the defendant.

- a) The liability of the plaintiff for the costs and damages of the defendant is not to exceed \$500,000.
 - b) If the court concludes, based on all of the admissible evidence presented, that a bond in any amount would cause the plaintiff undue economic hardship, the court is authorized in its discretion to decline to impose a bond.
 - c) If at any time after the plaintiff has filed an undertaking the housing development plan is changed by the developer in bad faith so that it fails to meet or exceed the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing, the developer is liable to the plaintiff for the cost of obtaining the undertaking. (*Ibid.*)
- 7) Provides that in all civil actions, including actions brought pursuant to Section 21167 of the Public Resources Code, brought by any plaintiff to challenge the approval or permitting of a "priority housing development" project, a defendant may bring a special motion to strike the whole or any part of a pleading.
- 8) Establishes anti-SLAPP procedures, including for all civil actions brought to challenge a priority housing development project. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(b).)
- a) A "priority housing development" means a development in which 100 percent of the units, exclusive of any manager's unit or units, will be reserved for lower income households, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, for at least 55 years. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(c).)
 - b) Entitles a prevailing defendant, with certain exceptions, to attorney's fees and costs; likewise for a prevailing plaintiff, provided the court finds the motion was frivolous or solely intended to cause unnecessary delay pursuant to Section 128.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(b)(2).)
 - c) Stays discovery proceedings upon filing of notice of a SLAPP motion. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(b)(5).)
 - d) Provides that these provisions do not apply any enforcement action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General, district attorney, or city attorney, acting as a public prosecutor.

This bill:

- 1) Defines “priority care development” to mean any projects funded, in whole or in part, pursuant to Sections 5892 (Mental Health Services Fund) or 5965.04 (Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024), or subdivision (c) of Section 18999.97 (grants under the Community Care Expansion Program), of the Welfare Institutions Code. A “priority care development” does not include a “detention facility” as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 9500 of the Penal Code.
- 2) Establishes an anti-SLAPP motion statute similar to the one for a priority housing development, described in 5) above.
- 3) Authorizes a defendant in a civil action, including under CEQA, challenging a project that is a priority care development project, as defined, to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project
- 4) Raises the maximum of the undertaking to \$1,000,0000. This amount is to be adjusted annually for inflation, beginning on January 1, 2028, based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Department of Industrial Relations, for the most recent one-year period ending on December 31 preceding each adjustment, with each adjusted amount rounded to the nearest \$25.

Comments

This bill is intended to apply to “priority care developments,” which are projects funded in whole or in part through the Community Care Expansion program, the Behavioral Health Services Act, and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act, including Homekey+.

California’s anti-SLAPP statute provides that a cause of action against a person arising from any act of that person in furtherance of the person’s right of petition or free speech under the United States Constitution or the California Constitution in connection with a public issue shall be subject to a special motion to strike. (Civ. Proc. Code § 425.16.) The Legislature asserted that the law was justified because “it is in the public interest to encourage continued participation in matters of public significance, and that this participation should not be chilled through abuse of the judicial process.”

In 1992, Code of Civil Procedure section 425.16 was added by SB 1264 (Lockyer, Chapter 726, Statutes of 1992) to provide a “special motion to strike” for use by

defendants in SLAPP suits to obtain an early judicial ruling and termination of a meritless claim arising from a person's exercise of their constitutional rights of petition and free speech in connection with a public issue. In passing the anti-SLAPP law, the Legislature found "that there has been a disturbing increase in lawsuits brought primarily to chill the valid exercise of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and petition for the redress of grievances." (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.16(a).)

In 2023, the Legislature enacted SB 439 (Skinner, Chapter 779, Statutes of 2023) and created a special motion to strike that is nearly identical to the anti-SLAPP statute with regard to challenges to certain housing developments. SB 439 allows for this motion to strike to be filed in a case that challenges the approval or permitting of a "priority housing development" project, explicitly including actions brought pursuant to CEQA. The procedures and guidelines mirror those in Section 425.16. As such, the court is required to deny the motion if it determines that the plaintiff has established that there is a probability that the plaintiff will prevail on the claim. This bill applies only to developments in which 100 percent of the units, excluding manager's units, are reserved for lower income households for at least 55 years. "Lower income households" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. This includes very low income households and extremely low income households. (Health & Saf. Code § 50079.5.)

This bill seeks to establish a motion to strike that is nearly identical to SB 439 with regard to challenges to of a priority care development project. The biggest deviation under this bill from SB 439, is that SB 439 does not apply in an enforcement action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General, district attorney, or city attorney, acting as a public prosecutor. This bill would apply in such an action.

SB 393 (Glazer, Chapter 285, Statutes of 2024) amended an existing provision of law (Code of Civ. Proc. § 529.2) that provided a mechanism for a defendant in a civil action challenging a housing project which is a development project that meets or exceeds the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project. Prior to the enactment of SB 393, the defendant had the burden of making a showing that the posting of the undertaking would not place an undue hardship on the plaintiff. SB 393 shifted the burden to the plaintiff to demonstrate that posting a bond would place an undue

economic hardship on the plaintiff, arguing that the plaintiff is the one who has the information to make such a showing and therefore it was more appropriate to place that burden on the plaintiff. The liability for the plaintiff cannot exceed \$500,000.

This bill seeks to enact a similar mechanism for a defendant in a civil action, including an action under CEQA, challenging a priority care development. This bill allows such a defendant to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project.

The bill also raises the amount of liability that the court can set for the undertaking to not exceed \$1,000,000 from the existing maximum of \$500,000. The bill provides that this amount is to be adjusted annually for inflation, beginning on January 1, 2028, based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Department of Industrial Relations, for the most recent one-year period ending on December 31 preceding each adjustment, with each adjusted amount rounded to the nearest \$25. Lastly, the bill provides that a “plaintiff” includes a “petitioner,” “cross-petitioner,” and “cross-plaintiff,” and “defendant” includes “respondent,” “cross-respondent,” “cross-defendant,” and “real party in interest.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

Attorney General Rob Bonta (Source)
California Housing Consortium
California YIMBY
Eden Housing

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

As of the most recent point-in-time count in 2025, approximately 187,000 Californians were experiencing homelessness on any given night. Local governments across the state are doing the right thing, approving permits for emergency shelters, interim housing, and supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness, as well as residential facilities for unhoused

individuals seeking treatment for behavioral health issues or substance use disorder. Those efforts are regularly met with frivolous lawsuits from groups whose only goal is delay.

The Legislature has already passed laws to protect affordable housing projects from these kinds of lawsuits, allowing courts to quickly dispose of meritless challenges and requiring plaintiffs to post financial security when their lawsuit lacks merit and is brought in bad faith or to delay or thwart construction. SB 1344 applies that policy to housing projects that are funded through the Community Care Expansion program, the Behavioral Health Services Act, and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act, including Homekey+. This bill extends both tools to these priority care developments and doubles the liability cap on the bond requirement, which has not been updated since 1981, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, indexed to inflation going forward.

SB 1344 would help protect local governments that are doing their part to address homelessness, ensure these important projects are not unnecessarily delayed or blocked through abuse of the judicial system, and protect the public's investment in infrastructure to bring every Californian inside.

The Attorney General, Rob Bonta, source of the bill, writes:

[...] California supports local efforts to address homelessness through funding programs and by supporting local planning efforts. Unfortunately, local governments that are following the law and attempting to do the right thing by approving permits for shelters, care facilities, and supportive housing are regularly met with meritless lawsuits from NIMBY groups endeavoring to block projects.

The California State Legislature has created two procedural tools to protect local governments from meritless challenges to affordable housing projects – the motion to strike under SB 439 (Skinner, 2023) and the bond requirement strengthened by SB 393 (Glazer, 2024). Unfortunately, these provisions do not protect local governments from meritless lawsuits challenging the approval of other projects that are essential to tackling California's intertwined housing and homelessness crisis, and delay can interfere with public funding windows and jeopardize projects.

SB 1344 would expand these procedural tools to also apply to projects funded by the Community Care Expansion Program (CCE), the Behavioral Health Services Act, and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act,

including Homekey+. These programs fund interim housing for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, adult and senior care facilities that serve elderly adults and people with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and other residential care facilities, including more than \$1 billion in housing investments for veterans who have behavioral health challenges. [...]

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/5/26 15:55:47

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1354
Author: Archuleta (D)
Amended: 4/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE MILITARY & VETERANS COMMITTEE: 3-1, 4/20/26
AYES: Archuleta, McNerney, Umberg
NOES: Grove
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/21/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SUBJECT: The military: defense of the state

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits military personnel of another state, territory, or district from entering, or causing something to enter, California to perform military duty or law enforcement functions without the permission of the Governor. The bill exempts personnel acting under federal Title 10 authority and allows the Governor to delegate approval authority to the Adjutant General.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the militia of the United States and divides it into organized and unorganized militia, with the organized militia consisting of the National Guard and Naval Militia. Existing federal law also authorizes the President to call National Guard units into federal service under specified circumstances (10 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 246, 12406).

- 2) Authorizes mutual assistance among member states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) in managing a disaster declared by the governor of the affected state (Government (Gov.) Code §§ 179, 179.5).
- 3) Establishes within California state government the Military Department, including the office of the Adjutant General, the California National Guard, and the State Guard. Existing law also provides that the Governor is commander in chief of the militia of the state (Military & Veterans Code §§ 51, 120, 140).

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits military personnel of another state, territory, or district from entering, or causing something to enter, California to perform military duty or law enforcement functions without the permission of the Governor.
- 2) Exempts military personnel who have been called into active federal service under Title 10 of the United States Code and who are acting under the authority of the President of the United States or the United States Secretary of Defense.
- 3) Authorizes the Governor to delegate the authority to grant permission to the Adjutant General.

Background

Under existing California law, the state's Military Department consists of the office of the Adjutant General, who serves as the senior military officer of the state and administers the Military Department, together with the California National Guard and the State Guard, while the Governor serves as commander in chief of the state militia. Federal law also permits interstate mutual aid through the EMAC, which allows military assistance among member states when the governor of an affected state declares an emergency.

The National Guard occupies a unique legal position because it can operate under both state and federal authority, and the source of that authority determines who exercises command and control. When National Guard members are activated on state active duty, they remain under the command of the governor and carry out state missions, such as emergency response or other in-state operations. When they serve under Title 32 of the United States Code, they also generally remain under the governor's command, even though the service is federally authorized and funded in certain circumstances. By contrast, when Guard members are called into Title 10 federal active duty, they are placed in federal service and no longer operate under state command. This distinction matters in domestic operations

because it determines whether military personnel are acting under state authority or federal authority.

California law does not currently contain a clear statutory requirement that military forces from another state obtain the Governor's permission before entering California to perform military duty or law enforcement functions. That issue has received greater attention in light of recent disputes over the use of military personnel in domestic operations, including the Title 10 activation of National Guard personnel in Los Angeles in June 2025 and the resulting litigation over federal authority, state control, and the permissible role of troops in civilian settings. Several other states, including Maryland, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington, have enacted similar laws, and related legislation has also been introduced in Oregon.

Comment

According to the author: "The Title 10 activation of National Guard personnel across the country this past summer drew attention to state and federal authorities governing the use of National Guard in domestic situations. While Governors do not have command and control over their National Guards or other Military Forces in a Title 10 (Federal Active Duty) status, they do retain command and control over their National Guards in the traditional Title 32 Status and for state emergency activations. This legislation protects state sovereignty by ensuring that military personnel from other states only enter California for appropriate missions and training. Other states' military forces should not be used to enforce federal law in California unless activated under the correct federal authority."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/13/26)

California Public Defenders Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Public Defenders: "SB 1354 would make it a crime for military personnel from another state, territory, or district to enter California to perform military or law enforcement functions without the express permission of the Governor. As public defenders, we have long witnessed how unauthorized and overly aggressive law enforcement actions—particularly those involving militarized tactics and racial profiling—

inflict deep and lasting harm on our clients and communities. SB 1354 is a critical safeguard affirming that California will not tolerate unlawful or uncoordinated incursions by outside state or federal forces that threaten our residents' constitutional rights, safety, and peace of mind.

The bill's clear prohibition on out-of-state, unapproved military activity reinforces the Governor's constitutional authority as Commander in Chief of the state militia and ensures California retains control over any armed or law enforcement operations conducted within its borders. This measure helps prevent the misuse of military power in civilian contexts by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement—especially against communities that already experience disproportionate policing and surveillance.

By establishing meaningful penalties for violations, SB 1354 sends a firm message that Californians value accountability, transparency, and respect for state sovereignty. It aligns with our state's longstanding commitment to due process, equal protection, and community safety built on trust rather than intimidation.”

Prepared by: Diego Nelson / M.&V.A. / (916) 651-1503
4/29/26 16:22:17

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1361
Author: Durazo (D)
Amended: 4/29/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 9-1, 4/21/26

AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson,
Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

NOES: Seyarto

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-2, 4/29/26

AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird

NOES: Choi, Seyarto

SUBJECT: Transit-oriented housing developments: exceptions: housing
development policy

SOURCE: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a local government with an existing or planned transit oriented development (TOD) stop from taking actions to interfere with a transit project’s approval to avoid the application of SB 79 (Wiener, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2025) development standards.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law: pursuant to SB 79 (Wiener, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2025):

Terms and Definitions

1) Establishes the following definitions:

- a) “Adjacent” means within 200 feet of any pedestrian access point to a transit oriented development (TOD) stop. A parcel that meets any of the eligibility criteria under this bill and is adjacent to a Tier 1 TOD Stop or Tier 2 TOD

Stop, as defined below, shall be eligible for an adjacency intensifier to increase the height limit by an additional 20 feet, the maximum density standard by an additional 40 dwelling units per acre, and the floor area ratio (FAR) by 1 prior to the application of density bonus law.

- b) “Residential FAR” means the ratio of net habitable square footage dedicated to residential use to the area of the lot. A local government may not impose any other local development standard or combination of standards that would physically preclude the residential FAR established.
- c) “Tier 1 TOD stop” means a transit-oriented development stop with an urban transit county, served by heavy rail transit or very high frequency commuter rail.
- d) “Tier 2 TOD stop” excludes a Tier 1 TOD stop, and means a transit-oriented development stop with an urban transit county served by light rail transit, by high-frequency commuter rail, or by bus service, as specified. “Urban transit county” means a county with more than 15 passenger rail stations.
- e) “TOD stop” means a major transit stop or a stop on a route for which a preferred alternative has been selected or which are identified in a regional transportation improvement program, served by heavy rail transit, very high frequency commuter rail, high frequency commuter rail, light rail transit, or specified bus service within an urban county. When a new transit route is planned that was not identified in the applicable regional transportation plan on or before January 1, 2026, these stops shall not be eligible as a TOD stop unless they would be eligible as Tier 1 TOD stops. If a county becomes an urban transit county subsequent to July 1, 2026, then bus service in that county shall remain ineligible for designation of a transit-oriented development stop.
- f) “Urban transit county” means a county with more than 15 passenger rail stations.

SB 79 Development Standards

- 2) Provides that a housing development within a specified distance of a transit stop in a residential, mixed-use, or commercial zone shall be entitled to specified development standards pursuant to the table below. TOD housing development projects shall also meet the following requirements:

- a) The average total area of floor space for the proposed units in the transit-oriented housing development project shall not exceed 1,750 net habitable square feet, and
- b) The housing development project shall include at least five dwelling units and meet the greater of the following:
 - i. A minimum density of at least 30 dwelling units per acre; or
 - ii. The minimum density required under the local zoning, if applicable.

TOD Stop Type	Dist. from Stop (TOD Zone)	Development Standards for Project
Tier 1: Major transit stop, heavy rail transit, or very high frequency commuter rail in urban transit county	¼ mile from stop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Height: 75 ft or 95 ft if adjacent to stop • Max Density: 30 - 120 units per acre (u/a) plus any density bonus or 160 u/a if adjacent to stop • FAR: 3.5 or 4.5 if adjacent to stop • Specified Concessions
	¼ - ½ mile from stop in city with population at least 35,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Height: 65 ft • Max Density: 30 - 100 u/a plus any density bonus • FAR: 3 • Specified Concessions
Tier 2: Not Tier 1 major transit stops served by light rail transit, high-frequency commuter rail, or bus rapid transit in an urban transit county	¼ mile from stop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Height: 65 ft or 85 ft if adjacent to stop • Ma Density: 30 - 100 u/a plus any density bonus or 140 u/a if adjacent to stop • FAR: 3 or 4 if adjacent to stop
	¼ - ½ mile from stop in a city with a population at least 35,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Height: 55 ft • Max Density: 30 - 80 u/a plus any density bonus • FAR: 2.5 • Specified Concessions

- 3) Provides that for projects with more than 10 units, the project shall include specified amounts of affordable housing units.

TOD Development Ordinances

- 4) Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to oversee compliance with SB 79 development standards. Requires HCD to promulgate standards for how to account for capacity in a city or county's land suitable for development identified in its housing element by July 1, 2026.
- 5) Authorizes a local government to enact an ordinance to make its zoning consistent with the provisions of this chapter, subject to review by HCD, as specified. The adoption of the ordinance shall not be subject to CEQA. Provides that the ordinance may include objective standards, conditions, and policies, applying to TOD housing developments, that are demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence to not physically preclude, alone or in concert, the applicable SB 79 development standards provided for in (2) above.
- 6) Requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to create a map of TOD stops and zones established by SB 79.

Local TOD Alternative Plans

- 7) Provides that a local "TOD alternative plan," defined as an amendment to the housing element or a program to implement the housing element—such as the adoption of a specific plan, adoption of a zoning overlay, or enactment of an ordinance; that brings the local agency into compliance with this bill—may be adopted provided it meets specified requirements, including but not limited to, providing at least the same total zoned capacity in terms of both units and FAR.
- 8) Exempts, prior to one year following the adoption of the 7th housing element, the specified sites from SB 79 if the local government has adopted an SB 79 ordinance, as specified.
- 9) Authorizes, for the seventh and subsequent revisions of the housing element, a local government to include a local TOD alternative plan, as specified, in future housing element cycles.
- 10) Delays implementation of SB 79 development standards until July 1, 2026, unless a local government adopts an ordinance or local TOD alternative plan deemed compliant by HCD before July 1, 2026. Delays implementation to unincorporated areas of a county until the 7th regional housing needs allocation cycle.

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits a local government with an existing or planned TOD stop from doing any of the following with respect to SB 79:
 - a) Requesting the transit agency to reduce service provided to the TOD stop, removing a TOD stop, or removing a dedicated transit lane so that SB 79 requirements do not apply;
 - b) Conditioning or withholding approval or review of a transit project that includes a TOD stop on the impacts of the additional height or density available to a TOD housing project required by SB 79; or
 - c) Withholding or withdrawing support of an application for federal funding of a transit project that includes a TOD stop on the basis of the additional height or density required by SB 79.

Background

SB 79 Development Standards. Beginning July 1, 2026, SB 79 makes housing an allowable use on sites zoned residential, mixed-use, or commercial within one-half mile of an existing or currently proposed qualifying TOD stop in an “urban transit county” for jurisdictions with a population of at least 35,000 residents, and within one-quarter mile of the qualifying TOD stop for jurisdictions with a population of less than 35,000. For unincorporated areas of a county, implementation is delayed until the 7th housing element cycle begins. SB 79 projects must include at least five units, achieve the greater of 30 dwelling units per acre (du/acre) or meet the local minimum density requirements, and maintain an average unit size not exceeding 1,750 square feet. SB 79 projects over 10 units must include specified levels of affordable housing, comply with anti-displacement provisions of the Housing Crisis Act, and comply with specified labor standards.

SB 79 limits the standards local governments can impose on SB 79 projects depending on the distance from specified transit stops and population of the jurisdiction (*see* chart under existing law #2). SB 79 projects that meet certain density thresholds are also eligible for additional concessions and incentives under density bonus law. SB 79 projects are not eligible on the following sites: (1) a site in which the development would require the demolition of more than two units that is subject to any form of rent or price control that was occupied by tenants within the last seven years, and (2) a site that was previously used for more than two units of housing that was demolished within the last seven years and those units were subject to price or rent control.

HCD’s SB 79 Advisory. Due to requests from several MPOs about the need for greater clarity about the implementation of SB 79, on March 20, 2026, HCD issued an SB 79 Advisory¹. Among other things, the advisory clarified several SB 79 definitions and specified that SB 79 applies to the following counties as of the publication of the advisory: Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Diego. According to the advisory, HCD will review all SB 79 Ordinances and TOD Alternative Plans and determine their compliance with state law. The advisory also provides that SB 79 development standards apply to the following types of transit:

Heavy Rail	Light Rail	Commuter Rail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART): All except eBART Pittsburg Center, Antioch stations ▪ Los Angeles (LA) Metro Rail: B, D Lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LA Metro Rail (A, C, E, K Lines) ▪ Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) ▪ San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Trolley ▪ San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) Metro and Streetcar ▪ Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Light Rail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) ▪ Arrow ▪ BART (eBART Pittsburg Center, Antioch stations only) ▪ Caltrain ▪ Capitol Corridor ▪ Coaster ▪ Metrolink ▪ Pacific Surfliner ▪ San Joaquins (Gold Runner) ▪ Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) ▪ Sprinter

HCD’s advisory notes that SB 79 contemplates application to future planned TOD stops that meet specified requirements. As such, the chart above does not reflect rail typologies for all rail services that have yet to be constructed or enter into operation.

Comments

- 1) *Author’s Statement.* “California is facing a severe housing affordability crisis, particularly in Los Angeles County, where nearly one in two households is cost-burdened and essential workers are increasingly priced out of their communities. At the same time, the state is making major investments in transit

¹ *SB 79 Advisory: Clarifications on Definitions for Metropolitan Planning Organizations.* HCD Housing Policy Development Division. March 20, 2026. Accessible here: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/planning-and-community/sb-79-mpo-advisory.pdf>

expansion to advance our climate, mobility, and economic goals. LA Metro manages the most ambitious transportation infrastructure program in the nation and is actively leveraging public land for housing at dozens of sites, with thousands of units in planning, negotiation, or construction. Metro has already delivered approximately 2,300 housing units and is working toward a commitment of 10,000 units by 2032, at least half of which will be income-restricted and affordable. However, current law is creating unintended consequences. By applying transit-oriented housing requirements to planned transit stops, communities are increasingly opposing new transit projects due to concerns about automatic zoning changes tied to future stations. This resistance threatens transit expansion, reduces long-term housing opportunities, and undermines the state's investments. SB 1361 addresses this issue by preserving housing requirements around existing transit, creating a workable framework for planned transit, and ensuring California can continue delivering affordable housing and transit together.”

- 2) *SB 79 application to future planned stops.* In addition to transit stops currently serving people, SB 79 applies to specified future planned stops. Specifically, SB 79 development standards apply to a planned stop identified in a regional transportation plan, so long as the planned route is included in the RTP as of January 1, 2026. The HCD SB 79 advisory clarified that SB 79 may apply to a future planned TOD stop that is any of the following:
 - An existing or planned transit station or stop identified in a region's federally or state-mandated transportation improvement program (TIP) that is served by any of the following: light rail or heavy rail, high-frequency or very high-frequency commuter rail, or eligible bus service. Planned TOD stops in a region's TIP may be limited to include only those with any amount of committed construction funding.
 - Selected preferred alternative route stops from an adopted CEQA/NEPA document, an adopted locally preferred alternative (LPA), or other local implementing document as determined by the MPO, regardless of their status in a federally or state mandated TIP.
- 3) *Protecting future transit projects.* Across the state, local governments are preparing for the application of SB 79 to sites around current and future planned transit stops. Some local governments are facing significant public pressure not to support future planned stops and bus routes because those stops could trigger the application of SB 79 and increased housing density requirements. In LA, some cities are taking steps or threatening actions related to transit routes they

previously supported. One city has threatened to require additional environmental review for a BRT project due to possible impacts of SB 79; the threat alone could add to delays and added costs to the project. Some cities are threatening to reduce service times along planned routes to avoid SB 79 application altogether, reducing fewer or less frequent transit options, or even the whole route. Another city is planning to pull their support from federal funding applications, which could put those funds at-risk for a project impacting 7 other cities.

This dynamic unfortunately puts transit agencies in a tough position. Transit stops are viewed as the reason for the increased density. Transit agencies, however, do not have land use authority over city and county owned lands, nor can they compel a city to continue supporting a transit line. LA Metro also notes that 89% of their customers are very low-income, 85% of whom are transit dependent, with 80% of the total LA Metro ridership using bus lines. Constituent concerns over SB 79 application could impact the four projects under construction, which would disproportionately impact lower-income ridership.

This bill seeks to prevent a city or county from using SB 79 as an excuse to add barriers or prevent current or future transit stops from being constructed. Specifically, it would provide that a local government cannot request a transit operator to reduce service on a transit route, condition the approval or review of a transit stop, or withhold support for an application for federal funding on the basis of SB 79 applying to that stop. This approach is consistent with provisions included in other land use bills to prevent cities from imposing subjective standards or taking actions to specifically target housing projects that are facilitated by state law. In this case, the bill would preclude additional conditions on transit projects. It would also apply statewide to assist similar threats that could occur in other regions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/26)

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (source)

City of Artesia

City of Glendale

City of Monterey Park

City of Paramount

City of Pasadena

Fastlinkdtla

Los Angeles / Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/26)

None received

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124

5/1/26 13:13:07

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1364
Author: Menjivar (D)
Amended: 4/30/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird,
Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SUBJECT: Child custody

SOURCE: RAINN

DIGEST: This bill modifies various laws establishing when a parent may be awarded custody of their child, when a parent-child relationship cannot be legally established, and when a parent is deemed unfit to parent their child, in circumstances where the person is shown, by clear and convincing evidence, to have committed an act of sexual assault that resulted in the child's conception.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a court, when determining the best interest of the child in a proceeding to determine child custody and visitation rights, to consider all of the following plus any other factors it finds relevant:
 - a) The health, safety, and welfare of the child.
 - b) A history of abuse by one parent or any other person seeking custody against a child to whom the parent is related or with whom the parent has a caretaking relationship, as specified; the other parent; a parent, current spouse, of the parent, or a person with whom the parent has a dating or engagement relationship.
 - c) The nature and amount of contact with both parents.

- d) The habitual or continual illegal use of controlled substances and the habitual or continual abuse of alcohol or prescribed controlled substances, as specified. (Family (Fam.) Code, §§ 3011, 3021.)
- 2) Establishes an order of preference for custody of a child, starting with jointly to both parents or to either parent; but clarifies that this order of preference does not establish a presumption in favor of joint custody, and that any award of custody must be in the best interest of the child and that the court and the family have the widest possible discretion to choose a parenting plan that is in the best interest of the child. (Fam. Code, § 3040.)
- 3) Limits, notwithstanding 2), the court's discretion to award custody or visitation under specified circumstances, including providing that when a person was convicted of rape and the child was conceived as a result of the rape, the court cannot award custody or visitation to that person. (Fam. Code, § 3030.)
- 4) Establishes a rebuttable presumption that an award of sole or joint custody to a parent is not in the best interest of a child when the court finds that the parent perpetrated domestic violence within the previous five years against the other party seeking custody of the child, against the child's siblings, or against another individual with whom the party had an intimate or caretaking relationship. (Fam. Code, § 3044(a).)
- 5) Provides that the rebuttable presumption established in 4) can be overcome with a finding that giving sole or joint physical custody to the parent who committed domestic violence is in the best interest of the child. (Fam. Code, § 3044(b).)
- 6) Establishes presumptions and procedures for the establishment of a legal parent-child relationship for a child born in this state. (Fam. Code, div. 12, pt. 3, §§ 7600 et seq.)
- 7) Provides that a person is presumed to be the natural parent of a child if the person meets specified conditions, including that the person is a spouse of the other parent and they were cohabitating at the time of conception and birth, unless specified conditions are met. (Fam. Code, §§ 7540, 7541.)
- 8) Provides that, when none of the conditions in 7) apply, a man shall not be presumed to be the natural father of a child if either of the following is true:
 - a) The child was conceived as a result of an act of rape and the father was convicted of that violation.

- b) The child was conceived as a result of unlawful sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 18, the father was convicted of that violation, and the mother was under the age of 15 years and the father was 21 years of age or older at the time of conception. (Fam. Code, § 7611.5.)
- 9) Provides that, except in specified circumstances, a presumption of parentage under 7) is a rebuttable presumption that may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence. (Fam. Code, § 7612.)
 - 10) Permits the child, the child's natural mother, and other specified persons to bring an action at any time for the purpose of declaring the existence of the parent and child relationship presumed under 7) or established following a birth through assisted reproduction. (Fam. Code, § 7630(a).)
 - 11) Establishes the procedures by which a minor child can be declared to be free from the custody and control of either or both parents. (Fam. Code, div. 12, pt. 4, §§ 7800 et seq.)
 - 12) Provides that a declaration under 11) terminates all parental rights and responsibilities with regard to the child. (Fam. Code, § 7803.)
 - 13) Provides that a finding in a proceeding under 11) must be supported by clear and convincing evidence, unless otherwise stated. (Fam. Code, § 7821.)
 - 14) Provides the circumstances under which a minor child can be declared free from the custody and control of a parent, including abandonment, neglect or cruel treatment, or the parent's disability due to habitual substance use or a mental illness or developmental disability, as defined. (Fam. Code, §§ 7822-7827.)
 - a) Provides that, in an action under 11) brought by the mother of the child against the father of the child, when the child was conceived as a result of an act of rape and the father was convicted of that violation; there is a conclusive presumption that the father is unfit to have custody or control of the child. (Fam. Code, § 7825.)
 - 15) Requires a court, in a proceeding under 11), to consider the wishes of the child, bearing in mind the age of the child, and to act in the best interest of the child. (Fam. Code, § 7890.)

This bill:

- 1) Clarifies that a court, when determining the best interest of a child for purposes of making a custody order, should consider, as part of its consideration of a parent's history of abuse by one parent of the other parent, abuse that resulted in the conception of the child.
- 2) Modifies the provision prohibiting an award of custody for a person who was convicted of rape that resulted in the conception of the child, to provide that no award of custody or visitation shall be made when the person has been convicted of sexual assault, as defined, and the child was conceived as a result of, or born within 300 days after, that act against the victim.
- 3) Provides that, upon a finding by a court, by clear and convincing evidence, that a party seeking custody of a child perpetrated an act of sexual assault that resulted in the conception of the child, there is a rebuttable presumption that an award of sole or joint physical or legal custody of a child to the person who perpetrated the sexual assault is detrimental to the best interest of the child.
 - a) This presumption may be rebutted only by clear and convincing evidence that sole or legal custody of the child is in the best interests of the child.
 - b) Provides that an act of sexual assault results in conception of the child if the child was conceived as a result of, or born within 300 days after, an act of sexual assault against the other party.
 - c) "Sexual assault" has the same meaning as defined in Penal Code section 11165.1 or a similar statute in another jurisdiction where the action occurred.
- 4) Eliminates the provision permitting a person to be a presumed natural father of a child if the child was conceived as a result of an act of rape and the person was convicted of that violation.
- 5) Provides that a man shall not be presumed to be the natural father of a child if the child was conceived as a result of, or born within 300 days after, an act of sexual assault, as defined, against the child's mother and the father was convicted of, or is found by clear and convincing evidence to have committed, that act.
- 6) Provides that 5) does not apply if, after the date of the sexual assault, the child's natural mother and the father voluntarily share the rights and responsibilities of rearing that child, including frequent and continuing contact with the child.

- 7) Permits a child, the child's natural mother, a person presumed to be a natural father, a person seeking to be adjudicated as a parent or donor, an adoption agency, or a prospective adoptive parent to bring an action for a declaration of parentage at any time for the purpose of declaring the nonexistence of the parent and child relationship under 5).
- 8) Provides that the mother of a child may bring a proceeding against the father of the child to have the child declared free from the father's custody and control of the child, where the child was conceived as a result of, or born within 300 days after, an act of sexual assault, as defined, against the mother of the child and the father is found, by clear and convincing evidence, to have committed that act.
- 9) Provides that there is a conclusive presumption that a father described in 8) is unfit to have custody or control of the child, unless, after the date of the sexual assault, the child's natural mother and the father voluntarily share the rights and responsibilities of rearing that child, including frequent and continuing contact with the child.
- 10) Makes nonsubstantive technical and conforming changes.

Comments

The right to parent one's child is a liberty interest protected by the United States Constitution.¹ The right is not an unlimited one, however: parental rights may be terminated when the facts supporting termination are supported by clear and convincing evidence.²

California has a number of statutes governing custody disputes, the parent-child relationship, and the ability to terminate a parent-child relationship or free a child from the custody and control of a parent. Certain statutes prevent the establishment of a parent-child relationship, such as when, outside of a marital relationship, the person seeking parentage committed an act of rape that led to the child's conception and was convicted of that crime.³ For a person whose parentage is established, the "best interest of the child" standard generally governs the court's award or denial of custody and care. There is a rebuttable presumption that, if one parent has committed specified acts of domestic violence, awarding joint or sole custody or visitation to that parent is not in the child's best interest; additionally, in a proceeding to free a child from the custody and control of a parent, there is a conclusive presumption that such a person is unfit to parent the child.

¹ See *Santosky v. Kramer* (1982) 455 U.S. 745.

² *Ibid.*

³ Fam. Code, § 7611.5.

This bill modifies various statutes relating to child custody and parentage to make it easier to prevent a person who committed an act of sexual assault that led to the conception of the child from having custodial or parental rights. With respect to custody proceedings, the bill prohibits an award of custody to a person who has been convicted of sexual assault that led to the child's conception or occurred within 300 days before the birth. The bill also modifies the presumptions relating to (1) the nonexistence of a parent-child relationship, and (2) parental fitness to parent a child. In both cases, the bill establishes a conclusive presumption against parentage or fitness when the child was conceived as the result of a sexual assault that is proved through clear and convincing evidence. These presumptions will not apply, however, if, after the sexual assault and the birth of the child, the parents voluntarily shared the rights and responsibilities of raising the child, including through frequent and continuing contact with the child. The bill does not modify the existing absolute bar on parentage or custody when the putative parent or parent was convicted of the rape that led to the child's conception.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/30/26)

RAINN (source)

16 individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/30/26)

San Fernando Valley Alliance

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to RAINN:

The CDC reports that nearly three million women have experienced pregnancy as a result of rape. At least half of survivors who became pregnant as a result of rape reported that the rapist threatened to seek custody or other parental rights to harass or intimidate them, retaliate against them, or coerce them into not reporting the rape to law enforcement.

In California, survivors have a limited ability to protect themselves from being forced to co-parent with a rapist, since the current statute requires a conviction to disallow custody or visitation. For every 1,000 sexual assaults, 975 perpetrators walk away without a conviction, and fewer than one percent of rapes result in a conviction for rape since some defendants plead to lesser charges. Thus a rapist can retain the right to sue for child custody and rape survivors can be forced to co-parent with the person that committed the rape. This can put the survivor and child at risk for further harm.

By requiring a conviction, current California law requires a higher standard of proof to protect survivors than the legal standard used in everyday custody determinations, which is “clear and convincing evidence.” This legal standard should be used in these situations to ensure survivors have a true opportunity for justice. S.B. 1364 would bring California in line with at least half the states providing this protection for survivors, including Washington, Montana, Virginia, and Texas.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the San Fernando Valley Alliance:

We as adults must always do that what is hard so the children do not have to. In the face of this legislation, that what is hard, is honoring the natural rights of the child. It is every child’s natural right to live, to know who their natural mother and father is, and to also beloved, care for and by those parents.

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/1/26 13:13:08

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1367
Author: Cervantes (D)
Amended: 4/16/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-2, 4/22/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Choi, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Planning and zoning: detention facilities

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits cities and counties from approving new private detention facilities.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Allows, under the California Constitution, cities and counties to “make and enforce within its limits, all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws.”
- 2) Requires every county and city to adopt a general plan that sets out planned uses for all of the area covered by the plan. A general plan must include seven mandatory elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. The general plan must also either include an eighth element on environmental justice, or incorporate environmental justice concerns throughout the other elements.
- 3) Requires cities’ and counties’ major land use decisions—including most zoning ordinances and other aspects of development permitting—to be consistent with their general plans.

- 4) Requires any private detention facility operator to comply with, and adhere to, the detention standards of care and confinement agreed upon in the facility's contract for operations, and allows individuals to sue if a private detention facility violates the requirement to comply with detention standards of care and confinement (AB 3228 (Bonta, Chapter 190, Statutes of 2020)).
- 5) Requires a private detention facility operator to comply with, and adhere to, all local and state public health orders and occupational safety and health regulations (AB 263 (Arambula, Chapter 294, Statutes of 2021)).
- 6) Authorizes a county or city health officer to investigate a private detention facility (SB 1132 (Durazo, Chapter 183, Statutes of 2024)).

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits, notwithstanding any other law, a city, including a charter city, or county from approving either:
 - a) A new land use in a manner that authorizes construction of a detention facility; or
 - b) A change of use that permits use of an existing building as a detention facility.
- 2) Defines detention facility to mean any structure, whether temporary or permanent, operated by a private entity on behalf of a governmental entity for the temporary holding of persons charged with a criminal offense or detained for civil or administrative purposes.
- 3) Contains a severability clause.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of this bill.* According to the author, "SB 1367 will prohibit cities and counties from approving new land uses that would allow the construction of detention facilities or permit the conversion of existing buildings into such facilities. The goal of SB 1367 is to protect California residents from the rapid expansion of private detention facilities, particularly those not designed for long-term human habitation.

"Facilities that are unsuitable for holding people, whether for short or long periods, can strain local infrastructure and pose serious risks to the well-being of detainees. Many of these facilities lack essential features such as proper

ventilation, temperature control, sewage and waste management systems, and adequate access to clean water, among other critical deficiencies. These systems of detention which have existed for generations fundamentally transform into something even more sinister and more prone to abuse.”

- 2) *Law of the land*. “The Constitution’s Supremacy Clause generally immunizes the Federal Government from state laws that [1] directly regulate or [2] discriminate against it.”¹ However, generally applicable laws may apply to the federal government, so long as those laws do not discriminate against or directly regulate it.² Determining whether a particular law discriminates against or directly regulates the federal government is nuanced. For example, courts have found that laws that merely increase the cost or difficulty of federal operations are not necessarily direct regulations, and a state has greater ability to regulate a contractor of the federal government than to regulate the government itself. In *GEO Group v. Inslee*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Washington State law regulating health and safety at private detention facilities. The Court noted that Washington’s law does not “require [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] to entirely transform its approach to detention in the state or else abandon its facilities.”³

SB 1367 enters this legal landscape. This bill prohibits cities and counties from approving new land uses or changes of use for private detention facilities holding individuals for civil or criminal matters. Because immigration violations are generally civil offenses, this bill could restrict new construction of, or expansion of, privately-owned facilities that detain immigrants on behalf of the federal government. Currently, the federal government contracts with seven private detention facilities operating in California in four counties—San Bernardino County, Kern County, San Diego County, and Imperial County.

There is reason to believe that SB 1367 may withstand judicial scrutiny. First, SB 1367 treats all private entities operating detention facilities in California uniformly, regardless of whether they are used to detain individuals on behalf of local, state, and federal governments. Second, SB 1367 also avoids direct regulation of the federal government, in contrast to previous legislative efforts. In *GEO Group v. Newsom*, the Ninth Circuit struck down AB 32 (Bonta, 2019) because it directly prohibited the operation of private detention facilities statewide.⁴ SB 1367, conversely, does not prohibit *operation* of detention

¹ *United States v. Washington*, 596 U.S. 832, 835, 142 S. Ct. 1976, 213 L. Ed. 2d 336 (2022)

² *GEO Group, Inc. v. Inslee*, 151 F.4th 1107 (9th Cir. 2025)

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *GEO Group, Inc. v. Newsom*, 50 F.4th 745 (9th Cir. 2022)

facilities; this bill only restricts local government actions to approve *new* land uses or changes of use. Those facilities that are currently in operation in the state could continue in existence, and the federal government can continue to contract with those facilities. Additionally, SB 1367 regulates local land-use approvals, an area historically controlled by state and local governments. Courts apply a presumption against preempting a state law when a state regulates an area of historic state power.⁵ Ultimately, the courts may decide if SB 1367 applies to private detention facilities used for immigration purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/6/26)

ACLU California Action
Freedom for Immigrants
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Inland Empire Cultura Collective
Inland Valley Alliance for Environmental Justice
Pangea Legal Services
San Bernardino Community Service Center, INC.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/6/26)

Riverside County Sheriff's Office

Prepared by: Anton Favorini-Csorba / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
5/6/26 13:50:33

**** **END** ****

⁵ *Ibid.*

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1369
Author: Reyes (D)
Amended: 3/26/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 4/7/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

SUBJECT: Recall petitions

SOURCE: California and Hawaii Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates

DIGEST: This bill requires a person who is being paid to gather signatures to qualify an initiative, referendum, or recall for the ballot to disclose orally to potential signers that they are being paid. For the recall of a superior court judge, this bill sets the time period for getting the required number signatures on a recall petition at 80 days in all jurisdictions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Declares in the California Constitution that “recall is the power of the electors to remove an elective officer.”
- 2) Provides in the California Constitution for superior court judges to be elected in their counties to six-year terms. These elections are nonpartisan and occur during the general election in November of even numbered years. When a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a judge to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.
- 3) Creates in the California Constitution the Commission on Judicial Performance to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct and, when warranted, impose discipline, including removal from office.

- 4) Prescribes the processes for qualifying a recall to appear on a ballot and for scheduling the election resulting when a recall qualifies through the collection of signatures on a recall petition. State law specifically prescribes the form, content, and presentation of a recall petition, including disclosure of the top funders of the recall.
- 5) Requires on a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition above the space for voters' signatures a public notice in 11-point font that reads: "THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK."
- 6) Sets the number of days that a recall petition for a local officer may circulate for signature gathering based on the number of voters in the jurisdiction. For an electoral jurisdiction with fewer than 1,000 registered voters, it is 40 days, which is the minimum. The maximum time for signature gathering is 160 days for jurisdictions of 50,000 or more registered voters.

This bill:

- 1) Requires those who are being paid to gather signatures on a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition to tell each person, without being asked and before providing the petition, that they are being paid to circulate the petition.
- 2) Sets the signature gathering period for a recall petition for a superior court judge at 80 days, regardless of the number of voters in the electoral jurisdiction.

Comments

- 1) *Author's statement.* California is one of eight states in the country that allows judges to be recalled. This system of checks and balances for judges is meant to be a tool of direct democracy allowing voters to hold corrupt judges accountable, but there is growing concern the recall process is increasingly being used in ways for which it was not intended, including to politically target judges based on unfavorable rulings.

Judges serve a unique role in our democracy. Unlike other elected officials, they are prohibited from campaigning or publicly defending their rulings. That ethical constraint protects impartiality, but it also makes judges uniquely vulnerable to politically motivated recall efforts. When recall efforts are driven by disagreement with case outcomes, rather than ethical misconduct, they raise serious concerns about attempts to influence judicial decision-making through political pressure instead of the established appellate process.

At the same time, gaps in our current recall process can leave voters without the information they need to make informed decisions. Individuals gathering signatures are not required to disclose that they are being paid, and recall petitions may lack sufficient accountability regarding the stated reasons for the recall. Recent recall campaigns targeting multiple sitting judges and the rise in threats and harassment surrounding judicial decisions highlight the need for reasonable safeguards.

This bill preserves the constitutional right of recall while strengthening transparency and accountability. It establishes a uniform 80-day signature-gathering period for superior court judges and requires paid circulators to disclose they are being compensated. Together, these measures ensure that judges can decide cases based on law and evidence, and not on fear of organized political retaliation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/10/26)

California and Hawaii Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates (source)
 American Board of Trial Advocates
 Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada
 Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
 California Defense Counsel
 California Judges Association
 CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
 Consumer Attorneys of California
 San Bernardino – Riverside Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/10/26)

California Chamber of Commerce
 Family Business Association of California
 Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

The California Judges Association writing in support of this bill notes that judicial recall petitions are exceedingly uncommon and asserts that this reflects the long-standing recognition that the judiciary plays a distinct constitutional role. The Judges Association additionally points out that:

...complaints about judicial actions are referred to and heard by the Commission on Judicial Performance, which holds judicial officers accountable for their actions and has the authority to discipline or remove them. This is unlike any other elected official in California. Maintaining appropriate safeguards in the recall process helps ensure that judges are able to make decisions based solely on the law and the facts presented in each case, without fear that routine or unpopular rulings will trigger politically motivated recall campaigns.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

The California Chamber of Commerce, Family Business Association of California, and the Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce oppose this bill because the bill's "oral disclosure requirement is unnecessary, duplicative, and fraught with practical and constitutional concerns." Specifically, they note:

Requiring an oral disclosure before every single interaction imposes a substantial logistical burden on petition circulators. Petition gathering is inherently fast-paced and dependent on brief, momentary interactions (often occurring in crowded public spaces where circulators have only seconds to engage a passerby). Mandating a verbal script before each engagement slows the process, reduces efficiency, and increases costs. In high-traffic public settings, where circulators may engage hundreds of individuals in a short period, this requirement would substantially diminish productivity and undermine the viability of lawful petition efforts.

The opponents further raise constitutional concerns, noting that petition circulation is core political speech protected by the First Amendment. They point out that courts have recognized burdens on petition circulation, which reduce the size of the audience proponents can reach, as restrictions on political expression.

Prepared by: Carrie Cornwell / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
4/13/26 16:09:55

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1370
Author: Stern (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/13/26

AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado,
McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, Wahab

NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Becker, Rubio, Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Wildfire Fund: report

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Wildfire Fund Administrator to present a required report to specified Senate Committees.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes and vests the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article 12 of the California Constitution)
- 2) Establishes the Wildfire Fund, administered by the Wildfire Fund Administrator, and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to pay eligible claims, as defined, against participating electrical corporations arising from wildfires ignited on or after July 12, 2019. (Public Utilities Code §§3289 and 3291)

- 3) Requires the Wildfire Fund Administrator, in consultation with the CPUC, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS), the Department of Insurance, the Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and with feedback solicited from stakeholders, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature, on or before April 1, 2026, that evaluates and sets forth recommendations on new models or approaches that mitigate damage, accelerate recovery, and responsibly and equitably allocate the burdens from natural catastrophes across stakeholders to complement or replace the fund. Requires that the report include specified recommendations including, recommendations on the accessibility and affordability of property insurance in California and an evaluation of alternative structures to socialize risk of damage from natural catastrophes, as provided. (Public Utilities Code §719)

This bill requires the Wildfire Fund Administrator to present recommendations on new models to mitigate damage, accelerate recovery, and equitably allocate burdens from natural catastrophe to the following Senate Committees:

- The Senate Committee on Emergency Management.
- The Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications.
- The Senate Committee on Insurance.
- The Senate Committee on Judiciary.
- The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

Background

Inverse condemnation. The California Constitution provides the basis for recovery against government entities and public utilities via the theory of inverse condemnation. Section 19 of Article 1, requires that just compensation be paid when private property is taken for public use. This is commonly understood as eminent domain. In the case where a property is damaged by a public improvement project, the application is known as inverse condemnation. Unlike in cases of negligence, the responsible entity is held strictly liable where a public improvement causes property damage. The California Supreme Court and appellate courts have held that inverse condemnation is applicable to privately owned public utilities (*Gay Law Students Association v. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co.* (1979) 23 Cal.3d 458, 469), and (*Barham v. Southern California Edison Company* (1999) 74 Cal. App 4th 744).

Wildfire Fund established. After several catastrophic wildfires ignited or suspected to have been ignited by electric utility infrastructure, including the deadly 2018

Camp Fire, a CPUC decision to disallow costs requested by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) from fires in 2007, and Pacific Gas & Electric's (PGE's) 2019 decision to file for bankruptcy in part to address claims from several fires (and also affected by the criminal probation from the 2008 San Bruno gas pipeline explosion), the Legislature passed AB 1054 (Holden, Chapter 79, Statutes of 2019) which in addition to the numerous provisions related to addressing wildfires caused by electric utility infrastructure, also included the authorization for an electrical corporation and ratepayer jointly funded Wildfire Fund to address future damages from future fires caused by electric investor-owned utility (IOU) infrastructure and subject to inverse condemnation. AB 1054 established the formula for contributions for the fund, including half paid by shareholders and the other collected from ratepayers via a volumetric charge on their utility bills (roughly \$0.005/kilowatt-hour) to capitalize up to \$21 billion in claims paying capacity if the large electrical corporations elected to participate. The authorizing statute included a sunset date of 2035 on the Wildfire Fund, with the idea that the Fund would not be needed long-term, only as a limited-time additional insurance policy as electric IOUs reduced their wildfire risks by investing in and implementing wildfire mitigation measures. The Wildfire Fund is currently capitalized at just over \$13.5 billion. The administrator, via the California Earthquake Authority, is currently tracking reported losses from three fires – the October 2019 Kinkade Fire, July 2021 Dixie Fire, and the September 2022 Mosquito Fire.

SB 254 (Becker, Chapter 119, Statutes of 2025) authorized the extension of the Wildfire Fund for another 10 years. With increasing speculation that the deadly January 2025 Eaton Fire in Southern California may have been ignited by Southern California Edison (SCE) transmission infrastructure, there have been growing concerns from utilities, their investors, insurance companies, wildfire victims and their attorneys, that the Wildfire Fund is likely to be depleted by the claims from just the one fire. Eaton Fire claims are estimated in the tens of billions of dollars due to the nearly 10,000 structures and other property damaged or destroyed in Altadena, Sierra Madre, and Pasadena, in addition to other losses. SB 254 authorized the Continuation Account of the Wildfire Fund for an additional 10 years (to 2045). If all three large electrical corporations elect to participate, the new account would be capitalized using the existing nonbypassable charge on ratepayers to issue additional recovery bonds, but extended through 2045 (up to an additional \$9 billion), and another \$9 billion from electric IOU shareholders (paid in different installments and allocations than the original fund, with the allocations adjusted to address risk and agreed to by the electric IOUs).

Comments

SB 254 calls for a study by the Wildfire Fund Administrator. Since its inception there have been questions about the durability of the Wildfire Fund, but as noted above, the theory was that the electric IOUs would have a 10 year limited-time insurance policy while they made the necessary investments to reduce the risk of their equipment igniting wildfires. However, the level of damage from the Eaton Fire, a conflagration in an urbanized and very populated area, has further raised concerns about the durability of the Fund as an adequate insurance mechanism. Even though SB 254 authorized an extension of the Fund, SB 254 also required a study by April 1, 2026 by the Wildfire Fund Administrator, in consultation with the CPUC, OEIS, OES, Department of Insurance, and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, with feedback from stakeholders to recommend additional approaches to socializing the costs of these and related disasters. The study, *Enhancing California's Resiliency to Natural Consequences*¹, was released on Tuesday, April 7th and includes a myriad of recommendations concerning community mitigation, changes to the property insurance markets, and changes to policies requiring electric utilities (and their customers) to absorb costs from catastrophic fires.

This bill proposes to require the report to be presented to multiple Senate Committees, including this one, along with Emergency Management, Insurance, Judiciary, and Natural Resources and Water. As this bill moves forward, the author may wish to consider including Assembly Committees.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 254 (Becker, Chapter 119, Statutes of 2025) proposed various policies related to electrical corporations, including requiring a study by the Wildfire Fund Administrator and authorizing an extension of the Wildfire Fund.

AB 1054 (Holden, Chapter 79, Statutes of 2019) included numerous provisions related to addressing wildfires caused by electric utility infrastructure, including: bolstering safety oversight and processes, such as required updates to each electric corporation's wildfire mitigation plan (WMP), recasting recovery of costs from damages to third-parties, including the authorization for an electrical corporation and ratepayer jointly funded Wildfire Fund to address future damages, and changes

¹ California Earthquake Authority: Administrator of the Wildfire Fund. SB 254 Study Report, *Enhancing California's Resiliency to Natural Catastrophes Senate Bill 254 (2025) Study Report*, April 7, 2026.

to provisions concerning the workforce of a change of ownership of a full or portion of an electrical or gas corporation.

SB 901 (Dodd, Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018) addressed numerous issues concerning wildfire prevention, response and recovery, including funding for mutual aid, fuel reduction and forestry policies, WMPs by electric utilities, and cost recovery by electric corporations of wildfire-related damages.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

As the wildfires in California have shown us, we can no longer afford a reactive approach to climate catastrophes, where we wait for destruction to occur before we scramble for solutions. Senate Bill 1370 is an important measure because it requires the Wildfire Fund Administrator to come before the Legislative Committees to provide its recommendations based on their comprehensive, evidence-based report to evaluate how we can better mitigate damage and accelerate recovery before the next disaster strikes. This legislation demands that we look at new models of wildfire risk management, ensuring we are not just fixing damage, but rethinking how we allocate the immense burdens of these catastrophes across stakeholders.

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
4/28/26 16:33:42

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1371
Author: Durazo (D)
Amended: 4/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-2, 4/22/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Choi, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Solid waste handling services: labor dispute

SOURCE: Teamsters California

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a city or county from entering into or amending a solid waste hauling agreement if it excuses the service provider from performing its duties in the event of a labor dispute.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Allows a city or county to “make and enforce within its limits, all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws,” known as the police power. It is from this fundamental power that local governments derive their authority to regulate behaviors, business operations, and land uses. Local agencies also use this police power to abate nuisances and protect public health, safety, and welfare. Cities exercise their police power within their jurisdictions, where not in conflict with state law, and counties exercise this power in unincorporated areas.
- 2) Allows cities that adopt charters to control their own “municipal affairs.” In all other matters, charter cities must follow the general, statewide laws.

- 3) Requires local agencies to provide solid waste handling services, or contract with another local agency or solid waste enterprise. These provisions declare certain decisions regarding solid waste handling to be local agencies' responsibility.

This bill:

- 1) Provides that, to promote public health, safety, and well-being, a franchise contract, license, or permit for solid waste handling services that a local agency enters into or amends on or after January 1, 2027, must not include a force majeure provision that excuses or suspends the service provider's from performing their duties in the event of a labor dispute.
- 2) Provides that any force majeure provision in a franchise contract, license, or permit for solid waste handling services is void and unenforceable, regardless of the date on which the contract, license, or permit was entered into, to the extent that it excuses or suspends performance due to a work stoppage arising out of or in connection with a labor dispute.
- 3) Includes a severability clause and defines its terms.

Background

Waste handling franchise agreements. State law requires cities and counties to provide solid waste handling services, or contract with another local agency or solid waste enterprise. These provisions declare certain decisions regarding solid waste handling to be cities and counties responsibility, including:

- Frequency of collection;
- Means of collection;
- Level of service;
- Charges and fees;
- Nature, location, and extent of providing the services; and
- Whether to provide services through franchise agreements (either nonexclusive or exclusive), contracts, licenses, permits, other approvals, or a combination.

Most jurisdictions in the state operate with some form of “franchise,” or contract, that limits solid waste hauling within the jurisdiction to one or more specified companies. Under these agreements, the city or county charges the franchisee for the benefit of operating within the public right-of-way. The franchisee then charges customers for providing waste hauling services. Jurisdictions can enter into franchises with waste haulers, with or without competitive bidding. Exclusive franchises authorize a single hauler to operate within a jurisdiction. Non-exclusive franchises allow for more than one hauler, but establish specific requirements for hauling within the jurisdiction. Some communities in California do not have franchise agreements. In those jurisdictions, solid waste businesses compete for service contracts with individual waste generators. For example, the City of Sacramento does not provide commercial collection services. Businesses and commercial properties may contact various franchise haulers to select the hauler whose services and cost best meets their need.

Force majeure. Some franchise agreements include “force majeure” provisions, which free the parties to the agreement from performing their respective duties if extraordinary events directly prevent the parties from doing so. Such an extraordinary event is often referred to as an “act of God,” but can include both natural and human-made events, including fires, floods, storms, and labor disputes.

City of Chula Vista. In 2014, the City of Chula Vista renewed a ten-year franchise agreement with Republic Services, a waste hauler provider, that included a force majeure provision that shielded both parties from fulfilling their obligations under certain extraordinary events, including strikes or work stoppages. In December 2021, during stalled labor negotiations, Republic Services relied on this provision to halt some waste collection services. The strike lasted a month, during which the company was shielded from liability due to their franchise agreement that included a force majeure that covered a work stoppage. Because Republic Services could not be held liable due to this provision, they did not collect waste during the stoppage. However, Republic Services allowed customers to drop off waste at their landfill free of charge. The City used its own staff and contracted with nonprofits to make up for lost or reduced services.

Comments

According to the author, “Solid waste handling services are essential to public health and environmental protection. California law allows local governments to grant exclusive or nonexclusive franchises to private haulers for waste collection and disposal. Many of these franchise agreements include force majeure clauses. Traditionally, force majeure provisions excuse performance when extraordinary

events beyond the control of the parties—such as natural disasters—make compliance impossible. However, some contracts now treat labor disputes as force majeure events, allowing companies to suspend services during strikes or other lawful labor activity.

SB 1371 clarifies that lawful labor disputes are not “acts of God” and should not automatically relieve companies of their contractual obligations to provide essential services. SB 1371 ensures that solid waste companies cannot use force majeure clauses to suspend service during a labor dispute and cannot misuse emergency health or sanitation orders to undermine lawful worker strikes.”

Forces of nature. Force majeure provisions generally are used to not subject a party to the contract if something outside of their control happens. For example, during a sale proceeding of a property, if an act of force majeure prevents access to the location, the sale is postponed at no fault of the owner. When the franchise agreement is up for renewal and the parties don’t agree on terms, the waste hauler company could invoke a force majeure if their franchise agreement is included, resulting in service being halted for waste pick-up. SB 1371 eliminates the ability for waste haulers providers to invoke force majeure due to labor disputes. While the bill preserves the use of force majeure for traditional, unforeseeable events beyond a franchisee’s control, it narrows its application by excluding labor-related disruptions. The question remains if SB 1371 appropriately distinguishes between avoidable and unavoidable service interruptions, as labor disputes may still be outside the immediate control of a franchisee and could render performance impracticable though not unforeseeable.

Previous legislation. To address the waste hauling disruptions, the Legislature passed SB 751 (Padilla) of 2023 which limited the use of force majeure provisions during labor disputes and shielding the company from liability following the prolonged service interruptions in Chula Vista. Governor Newsom vetoed the legislation with the following message:

“This bill prohibits franchise agreements for solid waste handling services entered into or substantially amended by a city or county on or after January 1, 2024, from containing a "force majeure" provision that excuses the service provider from complying with the agreement in the event of a work stoppage associated with a labor dispute.”

“While I appreciate the author's intent to prevent disruptions in local waste hauling services, I do not believe a change to state law is necessary. Local jurisdictions voluntarily enter into franchise agreements and currently have the ability to negotiate amendments to such contracts without legislation.”

Charter city. The California Constitution allows cities that adopt charters to control their own “municipal affairs.” In all other matters, charter cities must follow the general, statewide laws. Because the Constitution does not define “municipal affairs,” the courts determine whether a topic is a municipal affair or an issue of statewide concern. SB 1371 says its statutory provisions apply to charter cities. To support this assertion, this bill includes a legislative finding that the prevention of misuse of emergency sanitation, health, or safety authority to interfere with lawful labor activity is a matter of statewide concern.

Mandate. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local governments for the costs of new or expanded state mandated local programs. Because SB 1371 expands the definition of a crime, Legislative Counsel says that this bill imposes a new state mandate. SB 1371 disclaims the state’s responsibility for providing reimbursement because the costs are due to expanding a crime.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/6/26)

Teamsters California (Source)
California Federation of Labor Unions, Afl-cio

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/6/26)

Recology
Republic Services
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Waste Connections, INC.
Waste Management & Affiliated Entities

Prepared by: Itzel Vargas / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
5/6/26 13:50:34

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1374
Author: Niello (R), et al.
Amended: 4/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Restraining orders: educational institutions

SOURCE: California State University, Office of the Chancellor

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a chief administrative officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or a designated officer or employee, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after hearing on behalf of the institution in order to maintain order on the school campus or facility which is subject to unlawful violence or a credible threat of violence directed towards the postsecondary educational institution.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Defines the following relevant terms:
 - a) “Chief administrative officer” means the principal, president, or highest-ranking official of a postsecondary educational institution.

- b) “Course of conduct” means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose, including (1) following or stalking to or from school; (2) entering the school campus or facility; (3) following a student during school hours; (4) making telephone calls to a student; and (5) sending correspondence to a student by any means.
 - c) “Credible threat of violence” means a knowing and willful statement or course of conduct that would place a reasonable person in fear for their safety, or the safety of their immediate family, and that serves no legitimate purpose.
 - d) “Petitioner” means the chief administrative officer, or their designee, who files a petition under 2).
 - e) “Postsecondary educational institution” means an institution of vocational, professional, or postsecondary education.
 - f) “Respondent” means the person against whom the temporary restraining order and order after hearing are sought and, if the petition is granted, the restrained person.
 - g) “Student” means an adult currently enrolled in or applying for admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
 - h) “Temporary restraining order” and “order after hearing” mean orders that include any of the following restraining orders, whether issued ex parte, or after notice and hearing:
 - i. An order enjoining a party from harassing, intimidating, molesting, attacking, striking, stalking, threatening, sexually assaulting, battering, abusing, telephoning, including making annoying telephones as defined, destroying personal property, contacting (directly or indirectly), or coming within a specified distance of, or disturbing the peace of, the student.
 - ii. An order enjoining a party from specified behavior that the court determines is necessary to effectuate orders described in (g)(i).
 - i) “Unlawful violence” means any assault or battery, or stalking as defined, but does not include lawful acts of self-defense or defense of others. (Code of Civil Procedure (Code Civ. Proc.) § 527.85(b).)
- 2) Permits a chief executive officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or an officer or employee designated by the chief executive officer, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after hearing on behalf of the student, as follows:
- a) The student must have suffered a credible threat of violence made off the school campus or facility from any individual which can reasonably be

- construed to be carried out or to have been carried out at the school campus or facility.
- b) The chief executive officer or their designee must obtain the written consent of the student.
 - c) The chief executive officer or their designee may, at the discretion of the court, seek a temporary order or order after hearing on behalf of any other students at the campus or facility who are similarly situated.
 - d) The court may not issue a temporary restraining order or order after hearing prohibiting speech or other activities that are constitutionally protected.
 - e) In the discretion of the court, for good cause shown, a temporary restraining order or order after hearing may include other named family or household members of the student, or other students at the campus or facility. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(a), (c), (d).)
- 3) Establishes procedures and timelines for obtaining a temporary restraining order or order after hearing under 2), as provided. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(e)-(k), (m), (o), (p).)
- 4) Provides that a person who is subject to a protective order issued under 3) cannot own, possess, receive, purchase, receive, or attempt to purchase or receive a firearm or ammunition while the protective order is in effect. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.9.)
- a) The court shall order a person subject to a protective order to relinquish any firearms or ammunition they own or possess pursuant to the provisions set forth in Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.9.
 - b) Any person who owns, possesses, purchases, or receives, or attempts to purchase or receive, a firearm or ammunition while the protective order is in effect is punishable as a crime. (Penal Code § 29825.)
- 5) Provides that nothing in 2) through 4) prevents either party from representation by private counsel or from appearing on their own behalf. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(l).)

This bill:

- 1) Permits a chief executive officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or an officer or employee designated by the chief executive officer, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after hearing on behalf of the institution, and at the discretion of the court, any property of the campus or facility which are owned by the institution.

- 2) Expands the definition of “course of conduct” to include making telephone calls to the school campus or facility and sending correspondence to a chief administrative officer by any means, including, but not limited to, the use of public or private mails, interoffice mail, facsimile, or computer email.
- 3) Provides that a “temporary restraining order” and “order after hearing” may include an order enjoining a party from: harassing; intimidating; attacking; striking; stalking; threatening; telephoning, including, but not limited to, making annoying telephone calls as defined; destroying property; contacting, either directly or indirectly, by mail or otherwise; or coming within a specified distance of a school campus or facility.
- 4) Makes clarifying changes.

Comments

A 2025 report from the Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center (HSOAC) shows campus crime at institutions of higher education across the U.S. has returned to pre- COVID-19 pandemic levels. The sponsor and author of this bill note that threats can cause disruptions during key academic deadlines, such as during finals or midterm exams. For example, in 2018 California State University, Northridge (CSUN) received alleged threats to campus during finals week in December, which resulted in alternative arrangements needing to be made that did not require students to be on campus during finals week.¹ In February of this year, California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) received an anonymous call alleging that someone was going to shoot people at the school and blow themselves up, which led to fear and panic for the campus community and a campus-wide lockdown that asked staff and students to shelter in place.² According to the author and sponsor, a troubling incident that occurred at San Diego State University (SDSU) highlights why this bill is needed. They report:

In March 2024, Student A began posting on SDSU-restricted online platforms. These posts contained violent, sexual, and concerning content and were forwarded to University Police Department (UPD) by a student. UPD’s Threat Management Team (TMT) was notified, and monitoring began. Additionally, coordination with local law enforcement for monitoring began. In 2025, SDSU worked with the FBI on the case, as the student was serving in the U.S. Marine

¹ CSUN, *Updates in Response to Threats to Campus*, available at <https://www.csun.edu/president/news/updates-response-threats-campus>.

² CSUB, Instagram, (Feb. 2, 2026), available at <https://www.instagram.com/p/DURkI7jgTvQ/?hl=en>.

Corps Reserve. Since the threats were not specifically directed at an individual student or employee at SDSU, [SDSU] did not have the ability to have a long-term restraining order issued against the student. The student was suspended from SDSU, and the suspension was upheld. And in SDSU's experience, the District Attorney and City Attorney do not always request a criminal restraining order even when specifically asked to include it as part of the prosecution.

In the example above no specific student or employee was targeted—but the campus generally— and therefore SDSU was unable to use existing Code of Civil Procedure Sections 527.8 or 527.85 to obtain a restraining order against the former student from entering campus.

In 2009, the Legislature enacted SB 188 (Runner, Chapter 566, Statutes of 2009), which allowed the chief executive officer of a private postsecondary educational institution to seek a protective order—including a temporary restraining order or an order after hearing—on behalf of a student who has experienced an off-campus threat of on-campus violence.³ The bill originated from a school at which a former student was harassing current students; the school was told that there was no way for the school to obtain a protective order for the campus as a whole, and that it instead would have to seek 375 separate protective orders to prevent the former student from entering the campus.⁴ The bill was modeled after existing provisions allowing an employer to seek a protective order on behalf of an employee who suffered a credible threat of violence that could be construed to be carried out at the workplace.⁵

The protective order provision established in SB 188 is more limited in scope than protective order regimes that allow the victim themselves to seek an order. A chief executive officer may file a petition on behalf of a student only if the student suffered a credible threat of violence made off-campus and the threat can be reasonably construed to be carried out, or to have been carried out, on campus.⁶ In other words, an officer cannot seek a protective order on behalf of a student for any harassment the student might be suffering; the officer is limited to seeking a protective order in response to a credible threat of violence that could occur on the campus or facility. Additionally, an officer may not seek an order on behalf of an unwilling student—the officer must obtain the written consent of the student before seeking a protective order.⁷ A person subject to a temporary restraining order or

³ See Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85.

⁴ Sen. Com. on Judiciary, Analysis of SB 188 (2009-2010 Reg. Sess.) as introduced, p. 1.

⁵ See Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8.

⁶ *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(a).

⁷ *Ibid.*

injunction under these provisions is required to relinquish firearms and ammunition under Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.9.

In 2024, these provisions were expanded to include public institutions in AB 2096 (Petrie-Norris, Chapter 947, Statutes of 2024). AB 2096 also expanded the conduct under which a restraining order can be sought to include unlawful violence.

The procedure for obtaining a protective order under this provision is also slightly more permissive towards the respondent than, say, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA). A respondent may obtain a continuance of the hearing for a reasonable time to respond to the petition as a matter of course.⁸ A protective order issued after hearing may run for only three years initially, rather than the five years permitted under the DVPA.⁹ The scope of a protective order, however, is similar to those permitted under other regimes; a respondent may be prohibited from engaging in a range of activity to harass or intimidate the subject of the order, and, consistent with other protective order regimes, a respondent is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition for the duration of the order.¹⁰

This bill expands the existing provisions of Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.85 to authorize a chief administrative officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or a designated officer or employee, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after a hearing on behalf of the institution itself in order to maintain order on the school campus or facility when it is subject to unlawful violence or a credible threat of violence towards the campus.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

California State University, Office of the Chancellor (source)
Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
San Diego State University
University of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

None received

⁸ *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(o)

⁹ *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(k).

¹⁰ *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(b); *see Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.9.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

SB 1374 empowers higher education institutions to provide safer communities by providing an additional preemptive measure to deter threats by permitting restraining orders on behalf of the institution itself when threats are made towards a campus. This bill will provide a crucial tool to ensure institutions are able to maintain safe learning environments.

When institutions are targeted with threats, the resulting lockdowns, disruptions, and fear undermine students' ability to learn and faculty's ability to teach. SB 1374 will help campuses maintain a safe, stable environment by allowing them to seek timely court orders that can deter or restrict dangerous conduct before it reaches the classroom, residence hall, or campus event.

Campus leaders are responsible for safeguarding thousands of students, faculty, and staff, yet under existing law they lack clear standing to obtain civil protective orders when the institution itself is the target. SB 1374 provides a clear, court supervised mechanism to intervene early, before threats escalate into acts of violence on campus.

The California State University, Office of the Chancellor, source of this bill, writes:

The California State University (CSU) is pleased to sponsor and support Senate Bill 1374 [...] While current law allows institutions to seek restraining orders on behalf of students or an employee who receives threats, it does not clearly authorize institutions to seek similar protection when threats are directed at the institution itself.

In a time of increasing threats and harassment aimed at universities and other institutions, the gap in current law limits CSU's ability to respond swiftly and effectively. By authorizing chief administrative officers to seek restraining orders on behalf of the institution, SB 1374 ensures that institutions and the courts can intervene when unlawful violence or credible threats target the broader campus community. This bill serves as a critical preemptive measure by allowing institutions to intervene at the point of credible threats or escalating harassment before conduct turns into physical violence, unlawful acts, or irreversible harm to students, staff, or campus operations.

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/5/26 15:55:48

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1381
Author: Cervantes (D)
Amended: 4/16/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: State special schools: information

SOURCE: State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DIGEST: This bill requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide parents and guardians of specified students with disabilities with information about state special schools, including the California Schools for the Deaf and the California School for the Blind, through annual parent notifications and during the individualized education program (IEP) process.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires school districts, at the beginning of each school year, to notify parents or guardians of specified rights, responsibilities, and school policies, including attendance options, available programs, and other required disclosures.
- 2) Requires the annual notification to include information on topics such as enrollment options, career technical education pathways, apprenticeship opportunities, dual enrollment, public health guidance, and student safety topics, with the California Department of Education (CDE) responsible for developing certain standardized components of the notice.

- 3) Authorizes school districts to provide annual notifications by mail, electronically, or other written communication methods, requires acknowledgment of receipt, and mandates translation of notices when a threshold of non-English-speaking pupils is met.
- 4) Requires that all individuals with exceptional needs receive special education instruction and related services at no cost, consistent with federal law.
- 5) Requires that pupils with disabilities be educated with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate and that more restrictive placements occur only when necessary.
- 6) Requires IEP teams, for pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or visually impaired, to consider language and communication needs, access to peers and professionals, and appropriate instructional modalities, including braille where appropriate.
- 7) Requires IEP teams, when determining placement and least restrictive environment for pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, to consider a range of placement options, including those provided by school districts, county offices of education, nonpublic schools, and the California Schools for the Deaf.
- 8) Requires IEPs to be developed within specified timelines, reviewed at least annually, and implemented promptly, with procedural safeguards ensuring parent participation in meetings and decision making.

This bill:

- 1) Requires an LEA, as part of its existing annual parent notification, to provide parents or guardians of a pupil who is deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind with information regarding the option to attend a state special school, including the California Schools for the Deaf and the California School for the Blind.
- 2) Commencing with the 2027-28 school year, requires an LEA, when developing, reviewing, or revising an IEP for a pupil who is deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind, to provide the pupil's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder with information about the California Schools for the Deaf or the California School for the Blind.

- 3) Requires the CDE, on or before July 1, 2027, to develop and provide standardized informational materials to LEAs for purposes of these notifications.

Comments

- 1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, “My district proudly hosts the California School for the Deaf in Riverside. In alignment with Senate Bill 1381, we are committed to ensuring that parents or guardians of students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf blind receive comprehensive notification regarding the option for their child to attend a state special school. While interdistrict transfers may sometimes be met with reservations, it is essential that we consider the individual needs of each child and prioritize their best interests.

“The California School for the Deaf Riverside (CSDR) provides specialized resources, tools, and expertise designed to support the unique needs of deaf students. We have seen firsthand how students in such dedicated environments can achieve not only academic success but also personal growth, with some even reaching remarkable milestones such as winning CIF championships. This is the motivation behind my introduction of this bill: to make sure families are informed about available opportunities and can access the most fitting educational environments for their children.

“By expanding access to these specialized schools, we are not diminishing the resources of local districts; rather, we are fostering a collaborative environment where all can thrive. This alignment allows districts to utilize their resources more effectively while placing students in settings that cater specifically to their needs. Ultimately, our shared goal is to do what is right for our students. We all understand that education is a critical pathway to social mobility, and it is our duty to advocate for equitable access for every child.”

- 2) *The role of state special schools within the special education system.* State law establishes a continuum of special education placements, with the majority of pupils with disabilities served by their LEA and a smaller share served in more specialized settings, including nonpublic schools and state special schools. California operates three state special schools, including the California Schools for the Deaf (Northern and Southern California) and the California School for the Blind, which are intended to serve pupils whose needs cannot be met in traditional local settings.

Consistent with federal law, IEP teams are responsible for determining placement based on a pupil's unique needs, with a strong preference for the least restrictive environment and meaningful parent participation in decision making. Existing law also requires IEP teams, in the case of pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, to consider a range of placement options, including the California Schools for the Deaf.

- 3) *This bill adds a targeted information requirement within the IEP process.* This bill builds on the existing IEP framework by requiring LEAs, beginning in the 2027-28 school year, to provide parents of pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind with information about the California Schools for the Deaf or the California School for the Blind when an IEP is developed, reviewed, or revised. This requirement is distinct from existing law, which focuses on ensuring that IEP teams consider appropriate placement options, but does not explicitly require that parents be provided with standardized information about specific state-operated schools during the IEP process.

The bill also separately requires LEAs to include information about both the California Schools for the Deaf and the California School for the Blind in annual parent notifications, suggesting an intent to increase awareness of state special school options more broadly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
5/1/26 10:11:29

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1383
Author: Arreguín (D)
Amended: 3/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 8-1, 4/15/26

AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson,
Padilla

NOES: Ochoa Bogh

NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/29/26

AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird

NOES: Seyarto

NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SUBJECT: Housing development: density bonus: incentives or concessions:
labor standards

SOURCE: State Building & Construction Trades Council of California
Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers

DIGEST: This bill states that concessions or incentives, for purposes of Density Bonus Law (DBL), shall not include or relate to a labor standard, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires each city and county to adopt an ordinance that specifies how it will implement state DBL. Requires cities and counties to grant a density bonus when an applicant for a housing development — defined as “five or more units” including mixed-use developments — seeks and agrees to construct a project that will contain at least one of the following:

- a) 10% of the total units of a housing development for lower-income households;
 - b) 5% of the total units of a housing development for very low-income households;
 - c) A senior citizen housing development or mobile home park;
 - d) 10% of the units in a common interest development (CID) for moderate-income households;
 - e) 10% of the total units for transitional foster youth, veterans, or persons experiencing homelessness;
 - f) 20% of the total units for lower-income students in a student housing development; or
 - g) 100% of the units of a housing development for lower-income households, except that 20% of units may be for moderate-income households.
- 2) Requires a city or county to allow an increase in density on a sliding scale from 20% to 80%, depending on the percentage of units affordable to low- and very low-income households, over the otherwise maximum allowable residential density under the applicable zoning ordinance and land use element of the general plan. Requires the increase in density on a sliding scale for moderate-income for-sale developments from 5% to 50% over the otherwise allowable residential density.
- 3) Provides that upon the request of a developer, a city or county shall not require a vehicular parking ratio, inclusive of disabled and guest parking, that meets the following ratios: a) Zero to one bedroom — one onsite parking space. b) Two to three bedrooms — one and one-half onsite parking spaces. c) Four and more bedrooms — two and one-half parking spaces.
- 4) Provides that the applicant shall receive the following number of incentives or concessions:
- a) One incentive or concession for projects that include at least 10% of the total units for moderate-income households, 10% of the total units for lower-income households, or at least 5% for very low-income households.
 - b) Two incentives or concessions for projects that include at least 20% of the total units for moderate-income households, 17% of the total units for lower income households, or least 10% for very low income households.

- c) Three incentives or concessions for projects that include at least 30% of the total units for moderate-income households 24% of the total units for lower-income households, or at least 15% for very low-income households.
 - d) Four incentives or concessions for projects where 100% of the units of a housing development for lower-income households, except that 20% of units may be for moderate-income households, as well as a height increase up to 33 feet if the project is located within one-half mile of a transit stop.
- 5) Defines “concession or incentive” as any of the following:
- a) A reduction in site development standards or a modification of zoning code requirements or architectural design requirements that exceed minimum specified building standards, including, but not limited to, a reduction in setback and square footage requirements and in the ratio of vehicular parking spaces that would otherwise be required that results in identifiable and actual cost reductions, to provide for affordable housing costs, or for rents for the specified targeted units.
 - b) Approval of mixed-use zoning in conjunction with the housing project if commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses will reduce the cost of the housing development and if the commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses are compatible with the housing project and the existing or planned development in the area where the proposed housing project will be located.
 - c) Other regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by the developer or the city, county, or city and county that result in identifiable and actual cost reductions to provide for affordable housing costs, or for rents for specified targeted units.
- 6) Defines “development standard” as including a site or construction condition, including, but not limited to, a height limitation, a setback requirement, a floor area ratio, an onsite open-space requirement, a minimum lot area per unit requirement, or a parking ratio that applies to a residential development pursuant to any ordinance, general plan element, specific plan, charter, or other local condition, law, policy, resolution, or regulation that is adopted by the local government or that is enacted by the local government’s electorate exercising its local initiative or referendum power, whether that power is derived from the California Constitution, statute, or the charter or ordinances of the local government.

- 7) Defines “Labor Standard” as any legal requirements regarding wages paid, hours worked, and other conditions of employment.

This bill provides that for purpose of DBL, a reduction in site development standards, a modification of zoning code or architectural design requirements, and other regulatory incentives or concessions cannot include or relate to a labor standard.

Background

DBL. Given California’s high land and construction costs for housing, it is extremely difficult for the private market to provide housing units that are affordable to low- and even moderate-income households. Public subsidy is often required to fill the financial gap on affordable units. DBL requires local governments to allow affordable housing developers to increase the density of their project and waive expensive design standards, alleviating the need for direct financial subsidy. Allowing more total units permits the developer to spread the cost of the affordable units more broadly over the market-rate units. The idea of DBL is to cover at least some of the financing gap of affordable housing with regulatory incentives, rather than additional subsidy.

Under DBL, if a developer proposes to construct a housing development with a specified percentage of affordable units, the city or county must provide all of the following benefits: a density bonus; incentives or concessions (hereafter referred to as incentives); waiver of any development standards that prevent the developer from utilizing the density bonus or incentives; and reduced parking standards. To qualify for benefits under DBL, a proposed housing development must contain a minimum percentage of affordable housing. Depending on the amount of affordable housing included in the project and the depth of the affordability level, a developer is entitled to a base increase in density for the project as a whole (referred to as a density bonus) and one regulatory incentive. Under DBL, a developer is entitled to a sliding scale of density bonuses, up to a maximum of 50% of the maximum zoning density and up to four incentives, as specified, depending on the percentage of affordable housing included in the project. At the low end, a developer receives 20% additional density for 5% very low-income units or 20% density for 10% low-income units. The maximum additional density permitted is 50%, in exchange for 15% very low-income units or 24% low-income units. Additionally, specified 100% affordable housing projects may receive up to an 80% density bonus.

The developer also negotiates additional incentives, reduced parking, and design standard waivers, with the local government. This helps developers reduce costs while enabling a local government to determine what changes make the most sense for that site and community.

Comments

- 1) *Author's statement.* "SB 1383 addresses a critical gap in California's Density Bonus Law that has allowed its intended purpose to be misapplied. While the law was designed to incentivize affordable housing production, a recent case where labor standards were waived using the state's density bonus law has set a bad precedent and has broad impacts for worker safety. Labor standards are essential to ensuring Californians have a good paying job that can provide a roof over their head and put food on the table for their families, while at the same time ensuring construction quality for much-needed housing in California. By allowing labor standards to be waived, this could threaten worker safety, undermine training pipelines, and create unfair competition by allowing bad actors to undercut responsible contractors. SB 1383 ensures that increasing housing supply does not come at the expense of worker protections, a good paying job, or construction quality."
- 2) *Labor standards in Berkeley.* In 2023, the City of Berkeley adopted the "Helping Achieve Responsible Development with Healthcare and Apprenticeship Training Standards" (HARD HATS) ordinance, intended to improve the recruitment, training, and retention of skilled construction workers. Specifically, the ordinance requires contractors of certain housing and commercial developments to participate in apprenticeship programs and provide health care coverage to workers. The ordinance took effect on January 1, 2024, and was the first ordinance of its kind in California. Subsequently, a developer of a housing project in Berkeley requested to use a concession under state DBL to make the City's prevailing wage requirement under the HARD HATS ordinance, inapplicable in the project.
- 3) *Concessions and Incentives.* The purpose of DBL is to encourage the developers of market-rate housing to include affordable units in their developments or, in the event that the developer is required to include affordable units, enable the developer to finance the affordable units over the deed restriction term. The law provides two primary benefits: density bonuses and incentives. Incentives or concessions are defined as "reductions in site development standards or modifications of zoning codes or architectural design

requirements” beyond those required by the California Building Standards Commission. It may also include other “regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by a developer that result in identifiable and actual cost reductions to provide for affordable housing costs or rents for lower-income units.” In other words, concessions and incentives are intended to lower the cost of the construction of housing to provide for the affordable housing. The number of required incentives or concessions is based on the percentage of affordable units in the project.

The statute does not provide precise direction regarding how to determine whether the benefit of a requested incentive or concession has the requisite nexus to the provision of affordable housing. However, the intent language in the statute provides helpful direction in implementing the DBL provisions regarding waivers and incentives. The statute states: “In enacting this chapter it is the intent of the Legislature that the density bonus or other incentives offered by the city, county, or city and county pursuant to this chapter shall contribute significantly to the economic feasibility of lower income housing in proposed housing developments.”

Further, the specific terms in the statute used to define “concessions and incentives” include “development standards” or “modifications of zoning codes.” Development standards, which are typically included in local zoning codes, are further defined as “a site or construction condition, including, but not limited to, a height limitation, a setback requirement, a floor area ratio, an onsite open-space requirement, a minimum lot area per unit requirement, or a parking ratio that applies to a residential development...” While this list is not exhaustive, these examples illustrate that the Legislature intended for concessions or incentives to relate to aspects of the *physical* development of a project. It does not appear that concessions or incentives were intended to cover requirements about how to pay the people who are doing the construction; given the recent example in Berkeley, however, the author and sponsors are seeking to make the state statute clear that concessions or incentives, for purposes of DBL, shall not include or relate to a labor standard.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/2026)

State Building & Construction Trades Council of California (Co-source)

Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers (Co-source)

California Federation of Labor Unions, Afl-cio

California Safety and Legislative Board, Smart – Transportation Division
California State Association of Electrical Workers
California State Pipe Trades Council
Construction Trades Workforce Initiative
District Council 16, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
Western States Council Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/2026)

None received

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
5/1/26 13:13:09

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1398
Author: Rubio (D)
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 4/14/26

AYES: Rubio, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Choi, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26

AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: State agencies: building and renovation projects: Green Globes certification

SOURCE: Green Building Initiative

DIGEST: This bill additionally authorizes a state agency undertaking a new building or major renovation project to obtain Green Globes certification, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires all new buildings and major renovation projects undertaken by state agencies larger than 10,000 gross square feet, and for which the project schematic design documents are initiated by the state agency on or after January 1, 2024, to obtain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold or higher certification, except as provided.

- 2) Requires state agencies to obtain LEED Silver certification for new buildings or major renovations if the state agency makes a finding that achieving LEED Gold conflicts with critical operational or security requirements, is demonstrably cost ineffective, or conflicts with California Building Code requirements.
- 3) Defines “LEED” to mean the Leadership and Environmental Design building certification program under the auspices of the United States Green Building Council.
- 4) Defines “major renovation” to mean a renovation of a structure in which most of the major building systems are either replaced or upgraded.

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes a state agency undertaking a new building or major renovation project, as an alternative to obtaining LEED Gold certification, to obtain Three Green Globes or higher certification, as specified.
- 2) Authorizes, as an alternative to obtaining LEED Silver, state agency building or renovation projects to obtain Two Green Globes certification, as specified.
- 3) Specifies that this bill applies to projects for which the project schematic design documents are initiated by the state agency on or after January 1, 2027.
- 4) Defines “Green Globes” to mean the certification program under the auspices of the Green Building Initiative.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author’s office, “SB 1398 updates California law to recognize additional equivalent green building certifications, such as Green Globes, for state infrastructure projects. This change will provide the Department of General Services (DGS) with greater flexibility to select the certification system that is most appropriate and cost-effective for each project, while still maintaining strong sustainability standards. By explicitly authorizing additional certification options in statute, SB 1398 will help reduce unnecessary costs, avoid delays, and promote greater efficiency in the delivery of state infrastructure projects.

Additionally, “broader recognition of Green Globes in California can support sustainability efforts beyond state government, including in multifamily housing, commercial development, academic facilities, data centers, and other building sectors.”

Executive Order B-18-12. Executive Order (EO) B-18-12 by Governor Jerry Brown, among other things, ordered that any proposed new or major renovation of State buildings larger than 10,000 square feet obtain LEED Silver certification or higher. Additionally, the EO required state agencies to reduce overall water use at the facilities they operate by 10% by 2015 and by 20% by 2020, as measured against a 2010 baseline. The Department of General Services was tasked to develop policies and guidelines for the operation and maintenance of State buildings to achieve operating efficiency improvements and water and resource conservation.

California State Buildings. Existing law, pursuant to SB 416 (Laird, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2023) requires that all new buildings or major renovation projects undertaken by a state agency obtain the LEED Gold or higher certification, except as provided. The Senate Governmental Organization Committee analysis of that bill noted that:

According to the United States Green Building Council’s (GBC’s) internet website, “LEED-certified buildings save money, improve efficiency, lower carbon emissions and create healthier places for people. They are critical to addressing climate change and meeting ESG goals, enhancing resilience, and supporting more equitable communities. LEED categories can also contribute toward meeting the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goals.”

To achieve LEED certification, a project earns points by adhering to the prerequisites and credits that address carbon, energy, water, waste, transportation, materials, health, and indoor environmental quality. Projects go through a verification and review process and are awarded points that correspond to a level of LEED certification: Certified (40-49 points), Silver (50-59 points), Gold (60-79 points), and Platinum (80+ points).

LEED Certification. As an alternative to achieving LEED Gold or higher certification, as specified, this bill would additionally authorize a state agency undertaking a new building or major renovation project to achieve Three Green Globes or higher certification. While LEED certification is handled by two related – but distinct – organizations, the Green Globes building certification process is

handled by the Green Building Initiative. Under the LEED, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) develops and maintains the LEED rating system such as the standards, credits, and updates; and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) is responsible for review of the project documentation, verifying compliance, and awarding LEED certification levels.

Green Globes certification is administered by The Green Building Initiative which owns, develops, and certifies the Green Globes rating system. Unlike LEED (which splits standards and certification across two organizations), Green Building Initiative does both. Under this system, projects complete an online assessment, then work with a Green Globes Initiative-approved third-party assessor who reviews documentation, conducts a site visit, and validates the score. Supporters of this approach argue that Green Globes offer a faster, cheaper, and more flexible certification process.

This bill provides that the authority to obtain Three Green Globes or higher for new buildings or major renovations to any such projects undertaken by a state agency on or after January 1, 2027.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 416 (Laird, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2023) requires any new building or major renovation project undertaken by a state agency on or after January 1, 2024, to obtain LEED Gold or higher certification, except as provided.

AB 38 (Lee, 2023) would have required a state agency to ensure newly installed outdoor lighting fixtures on state-owned, -leased, or –managed structures meet specified requirements with the goal of minimizing energy use and light pollution and preserving the natural night environment. (Held on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File)

SB 30 (Cortese, 2021) among other things, would have prohibited state agencies from designing or constructing state facilities connected to the natural gas grid, as specified. (Never heard in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

Green Building Initiative (Source)

American Subcontractors Association-California
Building Owners and Managers Association of California
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
IAPMO Group

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

U.S. Green Building Council

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of the bill, the Green Building Initiative writes that, “[e]xplicitly including Green Globes in California statute as on par with other named green building certifications will provide for greater competition, flexibility, and cost effectiveness for state infrastructure projects required to meet green building standards for sustainability purposes in line with SB 416. Further, explicitly including equivalent and competitive green building certifications will benefit more than just state infrastructure projects including multi-family, commercial, academic, data center and other assets.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In opposition to the bill, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) writes, “USGBC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous world. Our flagship green building system, LEED, has been embraced in California by property owners, developers, business owners, and building professionals. Currently, there are more than 8,195 certified projects amounting to more than 1.4 billion square feet across the state. Our education and professional credential programs support green building in the state as well, with more than 27,526 Californians holding a LEED Accredited Professional (AP) or a LEED Green Associate credential. Indeed, California and USGBC have evolved together to advance green building and sustainable buildings practices over the past several decades; and in such partnership, we note the important contributions California public officials and building practitioners have made to continuously pushing LEED forward through participating in LEED Technical Committees and in other volunteer roles.[Click here to enter text.](#)”

Further, “California has a strong code floor through Title 24 and CALGreen, so the question is whether the proposed changes to the statutory requirement for state projects build on the existing code, facilitate the state’s building decarbonization goals, and provide the same or greater policy outcomes for state buildings. They do not appear to:

- SB 1398 assumes that specified levels of LEED and Green Globes certifications have equivalent outcomes: We do not believe this is the case. The LEED rating system (notably LEED v5) requires all projects to address some of California's top policy priorities: climate resilience, operational carbon planning tied to electrification or longterm decarbonization, and embodied carbon assessment.
- LEED certification is based on a set number of points earned in a project, whereas Green Globes is awarded on percentage of points earned – and projects are allowed to reduce the number of total points considered. That is, Green Globes projects have different 'denominators,' with the effect of shifting the actual outcome from project to project under Green Globes. In contrast, LEED maintains the same scorecard. Thus, for example, all LEED Gold certified projects achieved between 60 and 79 points. The LEED vs. Green Globes achievement measurement methods are not interchangeable as they do not produce the same outcomes.
- Prerequisites are an essential foundation to holistic green building, ensuring all projects have met a baseline of high performance. Under LEED, a project must achieve prerequisites across all categories, then select the credits best aligned with their project and goals. Under Green Globes there are no mandatory criteria; this allows project owners to choose not to earn any points in biodiversity or indoor air quality, for example. In a state with strong code floors, a certification system designed to reward only jurisdictional minimums and not leadership may add less policy value above code.”

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
5/5/26 15:55:50

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1400
Author: Arreguín (D), et al.
Amended: 4/27/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/15/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Choi
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove,
Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SUBJECT: Alameda Health System: hospital authority

SOURCE: County of Alameda

DIGEST: This bill revises provisions of law that established the Alameda Health System (AHS) hospital authority to permit the AHS governing board to consist entirely of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, or to include any number of the members of the Board of Supervisors or county officers or employees appointed to represent the interests of the county.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes a hospital authority as a separate public agency, established by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to manage, administer, and control the Alameda County Medical Center (doing business as the AHS).
- 2) Requires the hospital authority to be governed by a board that is appointed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and requires its mission to be the management, administration, and other control of the group of public hospitals,

clinics, and programs that comprise AHS in a manner that ensures appropriate, quality, and cost-effective medical care.

- 3) Requires every county to relieve and support all incompetent, poor, indigent persons, and those incapacitated by age, disease, or accident, that are residents of the county, when such persons are not otherwise supported by other means, which has been interpreted by the courts as a requirement that counties be the provider of last resort for medical and other care.
- 4) Permits health care facilities, including hospitals and clinics licensed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), that are owned or operated by counties, to establish, maintain, and carry on their activities through one or more corporations, joint ventures, or partnerships for the direct benefit of those health care facilities and the health services they provide.

This bill:

- 1) Permits the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to amend the enabling ordinance of AHS, and permits the enabling ordinance to authorize the membership of the AHS governing board to include, with the approval of the Board of Supervisors, a representative of any local public entity that contributes financial or other support to AHS pursuant to a joint powers agreement or other affiliation agreement.
- 2) Permits, at the Board of Supervisors' discretion, the AHS governing board to consist entirely of the Board of Supervisors or to include any number of Supervisors or county officers or employees appointed to represent the interests of the county.
- 3) Permits the Board of Supervisors to change the composition of the AHS governing board, or to revoke the duties and responsibilities of AHS and transfer the hospital authority back to the county.
- 4) Permits the AHS governing board to delegate day-to-day operational responsibilities to one or more subsidiary bodies it establishes, consisting of members possessing relevant expertise. Requires this delegation to involve reasonable safeguards to ensure that the AHS governing board retains ultimate control over the hospital authority, consistent with applicable law.
- 5) Permits AHS to affiliate with, or acquire ownership or control of, additional public or private hospitals, clinics, or programs to further its mission, at the discretion of the governing board.

- 6) Specifies that the provisions of law establishing AHS do not prohibit the Board of Supervisors from establishing, through bylaws or ordinances, mechanisms for integrating the county's interests in fulfilling its obligations as the provider of last resort, as specified in Existing Law 3) above, into AHS decisions.
- 7) Clarifies that the rights and duties with respect to hospitals owned or operated by a county that are conferred with a transfer of control or ownership to AHS include the privileges, exemptions, preferences and authority of a county with respect to owning, operating, and providing coverage and services through hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities, health programs, care organizations, physician practice plans, delivery systems, health care service plans, and other provider types and coverage mechanisms.
- 8) Permits AHS to carry on its activities through one or more corporations, joint ventures, or partnerships, consistent with specified provisions of existing law as described in Existing Law 4) above.
- 9) Permits AHS, at the discretion of its governing body, and when not inconsistent with the bylaws adopted by the Board of Supervisors, to maintain the private character of any private hospitals, clinics, and other health care facilities for which it assumes ownership or control.
- 10) Includes an AHS governing board member in provisions of law prohibiting a member of the AHS administrative staff from being considered to be engaged in activities inconsistent, incompatible, or in conflict with their duties to either AHS or the county as a result of employment or affiliation with the other.
- 11) Prohibits the inclusion of members of the Board of Supervisors or county employees on the AHS governing board from being a basis to determine that AHS is not an independent entity or that AHS has not obtained the administration, management, and control of the medical center.

Background

The Alameda County Medical Center is a network of facilities that provide health care services throughout Alameda County. Prior to 1996, the County of Alameda operated these facilities. However, changes in the provision of health care services made managing this system more challenging. Health care services shifted from inpatient services to outpatient services, and reduced state funding for county health care has resulted in critical funding problems for a number of counties operating county hospitals. In the case of Alameda County Medical Center, the

County had to reduce its budget in 1995 with a resulting deficit of approximately \$15 million at the end of that year.

These funding challenges prompted the County to consider how to reform governance of the Medical Center. Special legislation allowed Alameda County to form a public hospital authority, now known as the Alameda Health System (AHS), to manage, administer, and control the Alameda County Medical Center (AB 2374, Bates, Chapter 816, Statutes of 1996). The board of supervisors appoints a board of trustees. AHS operates as a separate legal entity from the County.

The board also adopts bylaws related to the management of the medical center. The bylaws specify that the AHS board consists of nine members. Each supervisor gets to make one appointment with majority board approval. One has to represent medical staff, but the board of supervisors still approves their appointment. Board members serve three-year terms, and can serve no more than three consecutive terms. To avoid violations of incompatible office law, AHS's enabling legislation provides that a member of hospital administrative staff is not incompatible with their duties as an employee or affiliate with the County.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "Under current law, Alameda Health System has a unique governance structure that provides for a health system board of trustees appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors previously transferred management and operational control of AHS to an independent hospital authority under Health & Safety Code Section 101850. This structure was intended to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and fiscal stability while preserving the County's obligation to provide indigent care. SB 1400 reflects those findings by providing increased flexibility in board composition and governance structure. Specifically, the bill authorizes members of the Board of Supervisors or designated county staff to serve on the AHS Board of Trustees, thereby strengthening coordination and communication between the County and AHS. This is intended to support a more defined and understood process of authority, consistent with the framework developed through the Ad Hoc Committee process. Given the significant impact of AHS governance on the delivery of health services to vulnerable populations, this bill seeks to ensure that elected officials have the ability to more directly engage in oversight and policy discussions affecting system operations."

2) *Choose your own adventure.* When Alameda County ran Alameda County hospitals in the 1990s, changes in healthcare prompted budgetary challenges. Alameda County hoped that shifting services to an entity independent from the county would help address these budgetary concerns. Fast forward a couple decades, and AHS faces another budgetary shortfall due in part to reasons outside of its control, including federal spending cuts. Now the board of supervisors is seeking the option to change its governance structure to allow it more control over AHS, seemingly shifting the pendulum back towards county control of AHS. Specifically, SB 1400 would allow the board of supervisors, or county staff, to become all, or a portion, of the AHS board of directors. SB 1400 includes language to provide that such changes do not alter the independent character of AHS, but because SB 1400 allows the board of supervisors to become the AHS board, in practice it may be difficult for AHS to maintain the same level of independence between the two entities.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/27/26)

County of Alameda (Source)

California State Council of Service Employees International Union

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/27/26)

None received

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
4/28/26 16:33:44

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1408
Author: Arreguín (D)
Amended: 4/14/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 9-2, 4/7/26

AYES: Cortese, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar,
Richardson, Wiener

NOES: Seyarto, Valladares

NO VOTE RECORDED: Strickland, Dahle

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-1, 4/22/26

AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson

NOES: Alvarado-Gil

SUBJECT: Contra Costa Transportation Authority: transactions and use tax

SOURCE: Contra Costa Transportation Authority

DIGEST: This bill would authorize, until January 1, 2045, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) to impose or extend a transactions and use tax (TUT), as specified, for the support of countywide transportation programs at up to 1% even if it exceeds the combined countywide rate limit of 2%.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires each county, within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), to develop a transportation plan for the county, together with the cities and transit operators within the county.
- 2) Requires every county that includes an urbanized area to develop, adopt, and update a congestion management program consistent with the regional transportation improvement program.

- 3) Authorizes a county board of supervisors to create a local transportation authority (authority) to operate within the county.
- 4) Provides that a county that chooses to create an entirely new entity as an authority shall determine the membership of the authority with the concurrence of a majority of the cities having a majority of the population in the incorporated area of the county and provides for the board membership of the authority.
- 5) Requires an authority to prepare and adopt an annual report each year on progress made to achieve the objective of improving transportation conditions related to priority highway operation and local transportation needs.
- 6) Authorizes an authority to impose a retail TUT ordinance applicable in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of a county if the tax ordinance is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the authority and imposition of the tax is subsequently approved by the electors voting on the measure, or by any otherwise applicable voter approval requirement, at a special election called for that purpose by the board of supervisors, at the request of the authority, and a specified county transportation expenditure plan is adopted.
- 7) Requires the authority, in the ordinance, to state the nature of the tax to be imposed, to provide the tax rate or the maximum tax rate, to specify the period during which the tax will be imposed, and to specify the purposes for which the revenue derived from the tax will be used. The tax rate may be in .25% (1/4-cent) increments and shall not exceed a maximum rate of 1%. Provides election procedures for the adoption of the ordinance.
- 8) Authorizes the revenues from an imposed tax to be allocated by the authority for construction and improvement of state highways, the construction, maintenance, improvement, and operation of local streets, roads, and highways, and the construction, improvement, and operation of public transit systems.
- 9) Requires a county transportation expenditure plan to be prepared for the expenditure of the revenues expected to be derived from the tax, together with other federal, state, and local funds expected to be available for transportation improvements, for the period during which the tax is to be imposed. A county transportation expenditure plan shall not be adopted until it has received the approval of the board of supervisors and the city council representing both a majority of the cities in the county and a majority of the population residing in

the incorporated areas of the county. Requires the expenditure plan to be adopted prior to the call of the election.

- 10) Authorizes the authority to annually review and propose amendments to the expenditure plan to provide for the use of additional federal, state, and local funds, to account for unexpected revenues, or to take into consideration unforeseen circumstances.
- 11) Authorizes various local governmental entities, subject to certain limitations and approval requirements, to levy a TUT, in accordance with the procedures and requirements of TUT law, including a requirement that the combined rate of all taxes that may be imposed in accordance with that law in the county not exceed 2%.

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes, until January 1, 2045, CCTA to impose or extend a TUT for the support of countywide transportation programs at up to 1% even if it exceeds the combined rate limit of 2%, if the following requirements are met:
 - a) CCTA adopts an ordinance proposing the TUT by any applicable voting approval requirement.
 - b) The ordinance proposing the TUT is approved by voters in accordance with the California Constitution.
 - c) The TUT conforms to state TUT law, other than the combined rate limit, as specified.
- 2) Allows a TUT rate imposed pursuant to this bill will not be considered for purposes of the 2% combined rate limit.
- 3) Makes legislative findings and declarations that a special statute for the County of Contra Costa is necessary.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, "SB 1408 would allow the Contra Costa Transportation Authority to place a sales tax measure on the ballot that would be subject to voter approval by residents of Contra Costa County. The

revenue would continue the County's investment in transportation solutions, including public transit, biking and pedestrian infrastructure, highway and local street improvements, and programs that expand mobility options.”

Who is CCTA? CCTA is a public agency formed by Contra Costa County voters in 1988 to manage the county's transportation sales tax program and oversee countywide transportation planning efforts. CCTA manages a multibillion-dollar suite of projects and programs and is responsible for planning, funding, and delivering transportation infrastructure projects. Some major projects, primarily on state highways, are being developed directly by CCTA. Others are administered by cities, the county, or transit districts with funds provided by CCTA.

CCTA is also responsible for developing and updating the transportation plan for the county which contributes to the development of MTC's regional transportation plan and sustainable communities' strategies. Additionally, CCTA serves as the county's designated Congestion Management Agency, and is responsible for developing, adopting, and updating the county's congestion management program.

What is Transaction and Use Tax? State law allows cities, counties, and specified special districts to increase the sales and use tax applicable in their jurisdiction, also known as district taxes or TUTs. Generally, the combined TUT tax rate imposed within a local jurisdiction cannot exceed 2%. To determine whether a county has reached this rate limitation, all countywide taxes and the highest combined rate imposed by a city within the county are counted towards the county's rate limit. For example, if a county imposes three 0.5% countywide taxes and two cities within the county each impose a 0.5% tax, the combined rate in those two cities would be 2%. In such a circumstance, the two cities could not impose another TUT, and the county could not impose another countywide TUT, absent special authority to exceed the rate limitation.

Prior to 2003, cities lacked the ability to place TUTs before their voters without first obtaining approval by the Legislature to bring an ordinance before the city council, and, if approved at the council level, to the voters. This was remedied by SB 566 (Scott, Chapter 709, Statutes of 2003), which imposed the uniform 2% countywide cap.

As of January 1, 2026, local agencies impose 484 district taxes for general or special purposes: 407 imposed citywide, 71 imposed countywide, and six imposed in unincorporated county areas. Generally, local agencies impose these taxes throughout the entire area of a single county, the entire unincorporated area within

a single county, or a single incorporated city. However, three transportation operators in the Bay Area have regional district taxes: the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District, which covers Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco; the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), which covers San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties; Sonoma-Marín Rail Transit District, which includes Sonoma and Marin counties.

Measure C and Measure J. In 1988, Contra Costa County voters approved Measure C, a countywide sales tax measure for transportation. Measure C provided for a 0.5% sales tax for 20 years, through March 2009, to pay for transportation projects and programs included in a voter-approved expenditure plan. The measure was estimated to generate \$1 billion over 20 years for projects such as a BART extension, freeway improvements, better bus service, enhanced bicycle facilities and more transportation options for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Measure C also created the county's first Growth Management Program to link planning for growth and development with transportation.

In November 2004, voters approved Measure J with a 71% vote. The measure provided for the continuation of Measure C's 0.5% for 25 more years beyond the original expiration date of 2009. As with Measure C, the tax revenues are used to fund a voter-approved expenditure plan of transportation programs and projects. Measure J is estimated to provide approximately \$2.5 billion for countywide and local transportation projects and programs through the year 2034. CCTA worked with local governments, stakeholders, and residents to develop the expenditure plan. According to CCTA, the sponsors of SB 1408, "Over its lifespan, Measure J has supported critical freeway and interchange improvements, including key corridors such as Interstate 80, Interstate 680, and State Route 4, and played a significant role in funding the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel. It has also enabled investments in expanded bus and rail service and the extension of BART to Antioch, as well as enhancements for active transportation like pedestrian and bicycle bridges. Measure J supports essential programs such as paratransit services for seniors and people with disabilities, transportation demand management initiatives, and youth transportation programs. The measure also provides direct funding to local jurisdictions for street maintenance and repair."

SB 1408 allows CCTA to impose a new TUT or extend the current TUT and exceed the 2% cap. According to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration data, as of January 1, 2026, Contra Costa County has 24 TUTs levied within its borders, including three countywide taxes and 21 citywide taxes. In addition to Measure J at 0.5%, Contra Costa County currently imposes a

countywide tax of 0.5% and a 0.5% tax is also imposed as part of BART service territory. The BART tax is exempt from the 2% cap. Therefore, the total countywide tax rate for the Contra Costa County is 1%.

Additionally, the Cities of El Cerrito and Pinole have the highest city TUT tax rates in the county at 1.5%. However, the additional 0.5% tax imposed by each city is excluded from the 2% combined rate limitation. Therefore, the highest city rate subject to the limitation is 1%, meaning Contra Costa County has reached the 2% combined rate limitation.

As noted, Measure J, which is 0.5%, is set to expire in 2034. SB 1408 would authorize CCTA to impose or extend, with voter approval, a TUT at a rate of up to 1% for the support of countywide transportation programs. It is unclear if CCTA is pursuing an extension of the existing Measure J at 0.5% rate or may pursue an additional 0.5% TUT.

Additionally, as authorized by last year's SB 63 (Wiener, Chapter 740, Statutes of 2025), Contra Costa County will join neighboring counties in supporting a regional TUT to fund Bay Area transit on the November 2026 ballot. As with the BART measure, this potential 0.5% TUT would be exempt from the 2% cap.

We've done this before. The Legislature has, on numerous occasions, granted specific statutory authority to exceed the general 2% rate limitation. Specifically, such authority has been granted to the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, and Ventura. This authority has also been granted to the cities of Alameda, Berkeley, Campbell, El Cerrito, Lancaster, Palmdale, Pinole, Santa Fe Springs, any cities in the County of Solano, Victorville, and to BART and Caltrain.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/23/26)

Contra Costa Transportation Authority (source)
California Special Districts Association
Central Contra Costa Transit Authority
Choice in Aging
City of Concord
County of Contra Costa
East Bay Leadership Council
Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority

San Francisco Bay Ferry
Town of Danville
Western Contra Costa Transit Authority

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/23/26)

Alameda County Taxpayers' Association, INC.
California Taxpayers Association
Contra Costa Taxpayers Association
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Writing in support, the California Special Districts Association states, “As the State navigates difficult conversations around budget priorities, opportunities to provide congestion management agencies with the ability and authority to diversify locally generated revenue streams serve dual purposes: these opportunities reduce the need for state funding while also enhancing the ability of these agencies to continue executing their mission of supporting countywide transportation programs. SB 1408 would achieve this by providing the Contra Costa Transportation Authority with the authority to pursue alternative, locally generated revenue for the support of its countywide transportation programs.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Writing in opposition, the California Taxpayer Association states, “SB 1408 would undermine taxpayer protections and make California’s affordability crisis worse by paving the way for regressive tax increases in Contra Costa County – where the combined state and local sales tax rate is already over 10 percent in some cities.”

Prepared by: Melissa White / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
4/24/26 11:07:16

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1417
Author: Pérez (D), et al.
Amended: 4/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 13-2, 4/13/26

AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez, Hurtado,
McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Wahab

NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Strickland

NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Grove

SUBJECT: Mutual water companies: assessments and water charges: notice

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill includes various provisions to provide greater transparency regarding rate and assessment increases by mutual water companies.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes and vests the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with regulatory over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)
- 2) Provides that any person, firm, or corporation, their lessees, trustees, receivers or trustees appointed by any court whatsoever, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any water system within this State, who sells, leases, rents, or delivers water to any person, firm, corporation, municipality, or any other political subdivision of the State, whether under contract or otherwise, is a public utility, and is subject to the jurisdiction, control, and regulation of the CPUC, except as otherwise provided. (Public Utilities Code §2701)

- 3) Provides that any corporation or association which is organized for the purpose of delivering water solely to its stockholders or members at cost, and which delivers water to others than its stockholders or members, or to the state or any department or agency thereof or any school district, or to any other mutual water company, for compensation, is a public utility and is subject to the jurisdiction, control, and regulation of the CPUC. (Public Utilities Code §2702)
- 4) Provides that any corporation or association that is organized for the purposes of delivering water to its stockholders and members at cost, including use of works for conserving, treating, and reclaiming water, and that delivers water to no one except its stockholders or members, or to the state or any agency or department thereof, to any city, county, school district, or other public district, or any federal agency that provides fire protection or operates park facilities, or to any other mutual water company, at cost, is not a public utility, and is not subject to the jurisdiction, control or regulation of the CPUC. Authorizes a mutual water company to perform specified acts without becoming a public utility and becoming subject to the jurisdiction, control or regulation of the CPUC, including delivering water at cost to any lessee of its stock or shares or other evidence of membership where the lease is in writing signed by the owner of the stock or shares or other evidence of membership and the lessee thereof and approved by the mutual water company. Requires all leases and contracts to be preserved for a period of 10 years by a mutual water company and subject to inspection by the CPUC. Defines the term “cost” as used in this to mean without profit. (Public Utilities Code §2705)
- 5) Authorizes a mutual water company organized for or engaged in the business of selling, distributing, supplying, or delivering water for irrigation purposes, and requires a mutual water company organized for or engaged in the business of selling, distributing, supplying, or delivering water for domestic use, to provide in its articles or bylaws that water shall be sold, distributed, supplied, or delivered only to owners of its shares and that those shares are appurtenant to certain lands, as specified. (Corporations Code §14300)
- 6) Authorizes a mutual water company that is not a public utility to levy assessments upon its shares, whether or not they are fully paid, unless otherwise provided in its articles or bylaws. Provides that the right to receive water or dividends may be denied and may be sold and transferred without those lands as if not appurtenant, if any shares of the corporation that have been made appurtenant to any land become delinquent in the payment of assessments. Requires the purchaser to acquire the right to receive water as provided in the

articles or bylaws of the corporation, or they may be forfeited to the corporation. (Corporations Code §14303)

- 7) Requires, pursuant to the Mutual Water Company Open Meeting Act, a board of directors of a mutual water company that operates a public water system to allow an eligible person, as defined, to personally attend a meeting of the board, if the eligible person gave the board at least 24 hours' advance written notice of their intent to personally attend the meeting. Authorizes the board to allow an eligible person who was denied attendance at a meeting for failure to provide this notice, or because the number of eligible persons having already provided notice of attendance exceeds the room capacity of the place of the meeting, to attend the meeting by teleconference. Requires the board to provide an eligible person attending a meeting by teleconference a copy of the documents to be discussed at the meeting, except as specified. (Corporations Code §14305)
- 8) Defines "eligible persons" for purposes of the Mutual Water Company Open Meeting Act to include, among others, shareholders of the mutual water company, a person who is an occupant, pursuant to a lease or rental agreement, of commercial space or a dwelling unit to which the mutual water company sells, distributes, supplies, or delivers drinking water, and an elected official of a city or county who represents people who receive drinking water directly from the mutual water company, as specified. (Corporations Code §14305(o))
- 9) Requires a mutual water company that operates a public water system to make certain records promptly available upon written request to an eligible person, as defined, upon payment of fees covering direct costs of duplication, including, among other documents, agendas and minutes of board meetings and copies of the mutual water company's annual budget and accounting report. (Corporations Code §14307)

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits a mutual water company from charging, issuing a bill, or otherwise seeking to hold tenants of shareholders responsible for the costs of water or its delivery, except for tenants, as provided in Section 2705 of the Public Utilities Code, where the tenant is a lessee of the corporation's shares or stock, or the tenant is a lessee of land of a shareholder, and the corporation has approved the lease.

- 2) Requires all notices of charges for water to be sent to the last known address of the shareholder or tenant, as applicable.
- 3) Requires a mutual water company that operates a public water system and that proposes to levy an assessment or to increase the charge for water to shareholders by more than 20% to comply with specified notice and public meeting requirements at least 30 days before it seeks to collect the assessment or increase the water charge. Requires the mutual water company to prepare a written proposal to collect an assessment or to increase a water charge, as specified, and to convene a public meeting regarding the proposal, as provided. Requires the mutual water company to send a copy of the written proposal and the notice of the public meeting to specified persons, along with other information, and to also send a copy of the written proposal and the notice of the public meeting to certain newspapers and radio stations.
- 4) Requires a mutual water company to make available to eligible persons, upon request, a copy of the current list of shareholders, including all contact information, and a copy of a written proposal to levy an assessment or to increase a water charge. Includes as an eligible person, for purposes of all of the above-described provisions, the chief administrative officer for each city, county, and government water agency in the mutual water company's service area, as specified. Prohibits a mutual water company that provides the requested records in digital form from charging for any duplication costs, as provided.

Background

Mutual water companies. Mutual water companies are private not-for-profit organizations of shareholder-owned water systems organized under Corporations Code Section 14300 *et seq.* and serving 1.3 million Californians in rural and pockets of urban areas. Some of these water companies date back to the 1800's when they constructed irrigation channels and installed pumps to distribute water to shareholder-owned properties, at the time in largely rural areas, while others date back to the mid-1900's as housing was being built in formerly rural areas. Over time, mutual water companies gave way to municipally owned water departments and investor-owned water utilities, that are regulated by the CPUC. However, mutual water companies are governed by their shareholders, via a board (often of volunteers). Shareholders are property owners who receive service and hold shares and liability for the integrity of the water system, including assessments to cover the costs to maintain the systems.

Eaton Fire impacts on mutual water companies. The Southern California January 2025 Eaton Fire killed 31 people and forced more than 200,000 to evacuate the area, destroyed 18,000 homes and structures, and burned nearly 60,000 acres of land. The fire also impacted water systems serving the community, including three mutual water companies in Altadena: Las Flores Water Company, Lincoln Avenue Water Company, Rubio Canyon Land and Water Association, who serve most residents and businesses in Altadena. These water companies had varying degrees of insurance to help them rebuild the infrastructure to restore service. Though the continued ability of the water system to provide service may also rest on the pace of the return of the customer base to the impacted area, as the ability to recover costs rests on continuing to provide service to customers.

Comments

Mutual water companies seek rate increases to recover from the Eaton Fire. In order to restore service, each of the mutual water companies have sought rate increases to financially recover from the Eaton Fire. The author's office contends they have done so without consistent timelines of outreach to shareholders. For instance, the advanced notification, which would include a public forum to discuss proposed charges, is not always clear. The author's office provided the following information concerning rate and assessment increases:

Las Flores Water Company:

- Applied a \$3,000 fee for standing homes, and to destroyed homes once rebuilt.¹
- The charge appeared to be presented in the October 2025 and January 2026 board meetings, which discussed plans for wildfire recovery, but no advanced notice of a prospective rate increase to advertise these meetings was provided in advance to shareholders.² Ultimately, nearly 200 shareholders demanded answers and expressed frustration and concern over these proposed charges.³
- A written notification dated March 2026 indicated that the charge was adopted by the board on their February 5th meeting to be applied on April 1, 2026.⁴

¹ <https://laist.com/brief/news/climate-environment/las-flores-water-company-altadena-whats-happening-and-why>

² <https://lasfloreswaterco.com/documents/lfwc-Fire-Assessment-Letter-2026.pdf>

³ <https://www.sgvtribune.com/2026/02/13/in-the-pipeline-altadena-utility-customers-to-see-water-rate-increases-in-2026-amid-fire-recovery/>

⁴ <https://lasfloreswaterco.com/documents/lfwc-Fire-Assessment-Letter-2026.pdf>

Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association:

- Proposed an 11% rate increase, and fire recovery fee of up to \$30 a month.⁵
- A March 18th notice indicated that charge will be applied May 1st with reference to rate adjustments being discussed at a February 3rd special meeting, but no advanced notification for shareholders to know that a rate increase would be discussed appeared to be found.⁶

Lincoln Avenue Water Company:

- Adopted a \$15 rate increase that took effect in March 2026 and considered imposing an additional fee.⁷
- No advanced notification to specifically highlight or discuss the rate increase appeared to be found but a letter was reportedly sent after the decision was made, and the company's website did not provide further details about any forum or agenda.⁸

Bill seeks greater notification and transparency concerning proposed increases to rates and assessments. This bill proposes greater notification of proposed rate and assessment increases by mutual water companies. The author's office has shared that survivors from the Eaton Fire are dealing with increased costs to rebuild their homes, and communities, including costs from the rebuilding of the mutual water company systems. They share the need for more transparency as residents have been surprised by the increased costs being placed on them by the mutual water companies. The author's office notes there is a lack of more visible and advanced notifications about proposed rate changes.

Opponents raise concerns about bill's prescriptive requirements. In opposition to this bill, the California Association of Mutual Water Companies (Cal Mutuals) states they support aspects of this bill to provide greater explanation of significant rate increases; however, they have concerns with the prescriptive nature of some of the requirements in the bill. Specifically, they raise concerns about the disclosure of shareholder names and contact information, the identification of board members who voted for a rate increase, and prescriptive notice and meeting mandates (such as requiring notices are publicized in newspapers and other media) or requiring the use of facilities with specific room capacity (at least 100 people). Cal Mutuals

⁵ <https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2026/02/13/in-the-pipeline-altadena-utility-customers-to-see-water-rate-increases-in-2026-amid-fire-recovery/>

⁶ <https://www.rclwa.org/uploads/files/LatestNews/2026%20Rate%20Increase.pdf>

⁷ <https://pasadenanow.com/main/another-altadena-water-company-calls-shareholder-meeting-to-address-eaton-fire-financial-woes>

⁸ <https://www.sgvtribune.com/2026/02/13/in-the-pipeline-altadena-utility-customers-to-see-water-rate-increases-in-2026-amid-fire-recovery/>

notes that the identification of board votes may discourage volunteer board service. They argue that board votes are already reflected in meeting minutes under existing governance practices, and requiring individual vote attribution in a formal statutory notice raises significant policy concern. Cal Mutuals also contends that the most important notices are those sent directly to their customers, as opposed to publicizing them in other media. Moreover, Cal Mutuals believes the required disclosure of shareholder information raises significant privacy concerns which could create tension with established privacy protections and exposing shareholders to unwanted solicitation, harassment, or misuse of personal information without proper safeguards.

Tenant/occupant billing. Under current law in both the Public Utilities Code and Corporations Code, mutual water companies are limited in who they can bill for services, largely restricted to their shareholders, or else they may risk becoming a public utility subject to the regulatory authority of the CPUC. However, there are exceptions where a mutual water company is authorized to provide water at cost without becoming a public utility, such as in the instance of addressing a fire or other emergencies. An additional exception provides that where a shareholder enters into a lease agreement with an occupant and the lease agreement is provided to the mutual water company, the mutual water company can bill the occupant. The law requires the mutual water company to maintain the lease agreements for 10 years and makes them subject to the inspection of the CPUC. The bill prohibits billing tenants for water service. However, amendments taken in the policy committee attempt to address the authorized exception in the law, by authorizing billing of tenants where they are authorized by Public Utilities Code Section 2705. Given the need to help the community rebuild, the continued ability of utility providers to collect charges for water service, including from tenants who agreed to these arrangements, can support efforts to restore service more quickly, while protecting customers who have not agreed to these arrangements from being unfairly billed.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1291 (Gonzalez) of 2026, requires specified actions of mutual water companies and their boards, including providing teleconferencing for certain companies, and adopt an annual budget, among other requirements. The bill is pending in the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee.

AB 240 (Rendon, Chapter 633, Statutes of 2013) required mutual water companies to comply with open meeting, public record, audit, and budget requirements and allows them to impose liens to collect unpaid charges.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/24/26)

County of Los Angeles

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/24/26)

California Association of Mutual Water Companies

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author's office:

In a joint meeting facilitated by the Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, the companies fielded questions about these water rate increases among other charges facing fire survivors. Some residents have still received water service charges from the time of the Eaton Fire although their property was destroyed. This dynamic underscores the need for state law to ensure consistent requirements for how mutual water companies provide advanced notification and a meeting for shareholders specifically if they are proposing a rate increase to ensure appropriate shareholder notice and feedback prior to adoption.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to Cal Mutuals, "...SB 1417 as drafted includes requirements that do not appear reasonably related to achieving the bill's intended purpose. The bill raises several significant policy and legal concerns." They express concerns with the prohibition on tenant billing, requiring board vote identification, prescriptive requirements in the bill, and disclosure of shareholder information.

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
4/24/26 10:52:37

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1430
Author: Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Amended: 4/8/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SUBJECT: Elections

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill conforms the Education Code and the Elections Code to provide the same 125-day deadline to adopt a resolution specifying the date and the purpose of an election and requires the resolution to be delivered to the county superintendent of schools and the officer conducting the election.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires, pursuant to the Education Code, when an election for governing board members of a school district or community college district is ordered, the governing board of the district, or the board or officer authorized by law to make such designations, to adopt a resolution specifying the date and the purpose of the election. The resolution must be delivered, not fewer than 123 days before the election, to the county superintendent of schools and the officer conducting the election.
- 2) Requires, pursuant to the Elections Code, on the 125th day prior to the day fixed for the general district election, the secretary of the governing body or a person designated by them, to deliver a notice to the county elections official.

This bill:

- 1) Conforms the Education Code and the Elections Code to have the same 125-day deadline to adopt a resolution specifying the date and the purpose of the election and require the resolution to be delivered to the county superintendent of schools and the officer conducting the election.
- 2) Makes technical and clarifying changes.

Background

Voter's Choice Act. SB 450 (Allen, Chapter 832, Statutes of 2016) created the California Voter's Choice Act (VCA). The VCA, among many other changes, created vote centers. At least one vote center has to be open for every 50,000 registered voters from the 10th day to the fourth day prior to the election. Counties that opt into the VCA must have vote centers open 10 days prior to Election Day and through Election Day.

Comments

Committee Bill. This bill is one of the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments' committee bills and makes changes to the Elections and Education codes. This bill contains changes requested by the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and by committee staff.

Same Day Deadline. When a general district election is called, on the 125th day prior to the election, a notice of the election is delivered to the county elections official. When a school board calls an election for governing board members, on the 123rd day prior to the election the resolution is to be delivered to the county superintendent of schools and the elections official. The two days make a difference when it comes to preparing notices and getting things ready for nominations. This bill conforms the Elections Code and Education Code to have the same 125-day deadline.

Clarifying Changes. Current language in the Elections Code covers how public buildings and school buildings should operate as polling places and vote centers. After the passage of SB 450, which took effect in 2018, election officials had a difficult time finding public buildings that could be used as vote centers for 10 days. AB 2540 (Mullin, Chapter 343, Statutes of 2018) thus required public and school buildings to serve as vote centers if requested by election officials. As AB 2540 added the word vote centers into the code section, the language became more complicated and confusing, such as making it seem like schools used as vote centers could be closed for 10 days. This bill rewrites the code section to clarify

how schools and public buildings should operate when used as polling places or vote centers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/21/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/21/26)

None received

Prepared by: Rida Shaikh / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106

4/22/26 16:11:14

**** **END** ****

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SCR 112
Author: Grove (R), et al.
Amended: 4/14/26
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 2/26/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes the month of January 2026 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Assembly Amendments of 4/14/26 make technical changes and include additional statistical findings.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Classified as a felony, human trafficking is a form of modern slavery. It is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for the purpose of labor or sexual exploitation. As one of the most underreported crimes, it is extremely difficult to conduct accurate surveys on human trafficking.
- 2) In 2021, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that there were 49.6 million victims of human trafficking globally, of which 27.6 million were in forced labor and 22 million in forced marriage.
- 3) Recent research supported by the National Institute of Justice reveals that labor and sex trafficking data appearing in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's national Uniform Crime Reporting Program may significantly understate the extent of human trafficking crimes in the United States.

- 4) According to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services data, the number of T-1 visa applicants filed by trafficking victims increased from 1,701 in fiscal year 2021 to 15,332 in fiscal year 2024, which is an increase of approximately 800 percent. This statistic reinforces the claim that immigrants are at high risk for labor exploitation and trafficking by bad actors who weaponize their immigration status against them.
- 5) The Legislature recognizes the continuously growing crime of human trafficking within California due to its ever-increasing population and primary airports and harbors.
- 6) The State of California is committed to combating all forms of human trafficking, recovering victims, prosecuting offenders, advocating on behalf of victims, raising community awareness, and strengthening collaborative partnerships.

This resolution recognizes the month of January 2026 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 97 – (Grove, Resolution Chapter 4, Statutes of 2024)
ACR 125 (Pellerin, Resolution Chapter 19, Statutes of 2024)
SR 52 – (Grove, 2024) From committee without further action.
HR 63 – (Villapudua, 2024) Died at desk.
SR 6 – (Grove, 2023) Adopted in Senate.
HR 7 – (Dahle, 2023) Adopted in Assembly.
SR 65 – (Grove, 2022) Adopted in Senate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/6/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/6/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 2/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary,

Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hart, Lee, McKinnor, Papan, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Valencia

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 16:12:56

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 113
Author: Grove (R)
Introduced: 1/16/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Gold Star Mothers' and Families' Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims September 27, 2026, as Gold Star Mothers' and Families' Day in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The history of Gold Star families began in the United States shortly after World War I to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war.
- 2) The reference to the Gold Star comes from the custom of families of service members hanging a service flag in the window of their homes displaying a blue star for every living family member in the Armed Forces and a gold star for those who have perished.
- 3) Since 2009, the President of the United States has designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers' and Families' Day, continuing the tradition of honoring the sacrifice of these families. Supporting Gold Star families demonstrates the commitment of the American people to those families, now and in the future.
- 4) As a nation, we must continually look for new ways to support Gold Star families both in the days immediately following the tragedy and in the years that follow.

This resolution proclaims September 27, 2026, as Gold Star Mothers' and Families' Day in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 28 (Grove, Resolution Chapter 170, Statutes of 2025)

SCR 109 (Grove, 2024) – Adopted in the Senate.

SR 43 (Grove, 2023) – Adopted in the Senate.

SR 101 (Grove, 2022) – Adopted in the Senate.

ACR 7 (Salas, Resolution Chapter 131, Statutes of 2021)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 1/27/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 1/27/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171

1/28/26 15:45:15

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 116
Author: Alvarado-Gil (R), et al.
Introduced: 2/2/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: National School Choice Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution designates the week of January 25, 2026, to January 31, 2026, inclusive, as National School Choice Week.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Excellence in education is a primary goal of the state and is essential to preparing pupils for civic participation, workforce readiness, and lifelong learning.
- 2) School choice programs provide pupils and parents with access to high-quality schools and instructional models.
- 3) The state's pupil body is one of the most diverse in the world, encompassing urban, suburban, rural, and agricultural communities, and, therefore, requires a diverse educational system. A pupil's residence or geographic location should not determine the quality of that pupil's education.
- 4) School choice is particularly important for low-income families and families in rural or geographically isolated areas who may have limited educational options. Parents, pupils, and educators throughout the nation annually recognize the importance of educational opportunity and effective school options for all children.

This resolution designates the week of January 25, 2026, to January 31, 2026, inclusive, as National School Choice Week.

Related/Prior Legislation

HR 82 (Kiley, 2022) – Adopted in Assembly.

HR 9 (Kiley, 2021) – Adopted in Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/13/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/13/26)

CFT — A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171

3/13/26 9:36:15

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 129
Author: Cortese (D), et al.
Amended: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/7/26

AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson,
Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener

NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Rusty Areias Highway

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill designates the portion of State Route (SR) 152 from Cedar Creek BR# 37-30R/L to Sidehill Viaduct BR# 37-398 in the County of Santa Clara as the “Rusty Areias Highway,” as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law assigns the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways, including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

This resolution:

- 1) Provides background on the life of Rusty Areias, as specified.
- 2) Designates the section of SR 152 between Cedar Creek BR# 37-30R/L (postmile R28.163) to Sidehill Viaduct BR# 37-398 (postmile R31.656) in the County of Santa Clara as the “Rusty Areias Highway.”

- 3) Requests Caltrans to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations.

Comments

Purpose of this resolution. According to the author, “Rusty Areias is a dedicated public servant who has made a lasting impact on my district, and on our state. As an Assemblymember who served the 25th and 28th districts for 12 years, Rusty had over 100 pieces of legislation signed into law under two Republican Governors. He secured critical funds for numerous key projects, including Martial Cottle Park, a one-of-a-kind agricultural park surrounded by urban development in Santa Clara County. Rusty also helped obtain \$150 million for key improvements to Highway 152 that made the road from the South Bay to the San Joaquin Valley safer and more accessible for all Californians. That legacy, coupled with his time as Director of Parks and Recreations under Governor Jerry Brown, where he expanded the number of visitors to our state parks by 23 million people, is what makes Rusty so deserving of recognition. SCR 129 will designate a portion of Highway 152 as the “Rusty Areias Highway” in his honor.”

Background. Born on September 12, 1949, in Los Banos California, Rusty graduated from California State University Chico and completed Executive Leadership programs at the Harvard Kennedy School. Serving in a number of public service positions / roles, Rusty served as a California Assemblymember from 1982-1994, Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation from 1998-2001, as a member of the California Coastal Commission for four years, including two as Chair. Currently, Rusty co-owns the Bird Ranch at San Luis Creek with his wife and has two children.

Consistent with committee policy. This resolution is consistent with committee policy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/21/26)

Congressman John Garamendi, 8th District
Willie L. Brown, Jr. - Former Speaker, California State Assembly
Will Kempton, Individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/21/26)

None received

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
4/21/26 16:19:44

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 142
Author: Becker (D), et al.
Introduced: 3/10/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: March4Water Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution declares the month of March 2026 to be March4Water Month in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Communities across America face the dual challenge of aging water infrastructure and growing demand, requiring innovative solutions that balance affordability, public health protection, and economic development.
- 2) Water reuse systems, including graywater, blackwater, and rainwater catchment, can expand community water supply, protect drinking water sources, and reduce strain on wastewater treatment infrastructure.
- 3) California employs approximately 42,000 plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, representing a vital segment of the state's skilled workforce essential for implementing water solutions that build community resilience.
- 4) March4Water Month serves as a platform for communities to raise awareness about water efficiency solutions, workforce development, and investments in infrastructure that support economic growth and community resilience.

This resolution declares the month of March 2026 to be March4Water Month in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/13/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/13/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
3/18/26 13:52:52

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 145
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Introduced: 3/11/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Mental Health Peer Appreciation Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes the 3rd week of May 2026 as Mental Health Peer Appreciation Week in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Peers, who are individuals with lived experiences of mental health or substance uses challenges, have unique perspectives on navigating the public behavioral health care system and can encourage, engage, and support other peers on their journey to recovery, health, and wellness.
- 2) Peers can provide voluntary support services that are cost-effective and Medi-Cal billable in a variety of settings that can help reduce and prevent incarceration, hospitalization, and institutionalization while uplifting people's health care autonomy.
- 3) Peer support is an evidence-based practice that is integrated into the delivery of mental health services provided by counties, including Assertive Community Treatment, Forensic Assertive Community Treatment, Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode Psychosis, and Individual Placement and Support Supported Employment.
- 4) Peer services help reduce health disparities in underserved communities by empowering peers to work in the behavioral health industry, creating a workforce that is reflective of a community's diversity and health needs.

This resolution recognizes the third week of May 2026, during National Mental Health Awareness Month, as Mental Health Peer Appreciation Week in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 23 (Quirk-Silva, Resolution Chapter 87, Statutes of 2025)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/16/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/16/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
3/18/26 13:52:54

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 148
Author: Padilla (D), et al.
Introduced: 3/19/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: GM1 Gangliosidosis Awareness Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution declares May 23, 2026, as GM1 Gangliosidosis Awareness Day in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) GM1 Gangliosidosis is a rare inherited disease that results in neurodegeneration and a progressive loss of abilities until death, leaving children, adolescents, and adults impaired with significant physical and developmental disabilities.
- 2) GM1 Gangliosidosis is severely underdiagnosed and misdiagnosed and occurs in only one in every 100,000 to 200,000 live births. Lack of public awareness and visibility of GM1 Gangliosidosis contributes to underdiagnosis and difficulties in accessing specialized services and proper rehabilitation and support.
- 3) Early diagnosis of GM1 Gangliosidosis is important to ensure timely management of clinical complications, genetic counseling, and, when available, treatment and therapeutic remedies.
- 4) The goal is to raise awareness and increase the accurate and timely diagnosis of this rare inherited lysosomal disorder known as GM1 Gangliosidosis.

This resolution declares May 23, 2026, as GM1 Gangliosidosis Awareness Day in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 33 (Padilla, Resolution Chapter 112, Statutes of 2025)

SCR 106 (Padilla, Resolution Chapter 34, Statutes of 2024)

SCR 68 (Padilla, Resolution Chapter 112, Statutes of 2023)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/1/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/1/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171

4/8/26 14:53:08

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 151
Author: Umberg (D)
Amended: 4/29/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury Awareness Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the month of May 2026 as Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Injury Awareness Month in California.

Senate Floor Amendments of 4/29/26 add coauthors and make minor changes to the findings of the resolution.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) ACL injuries are among the most common and debilitating musculoskeletal injuries affecting physically active individuals and youth athletes, constituting a major and growing public health concern. An estimated 400,000 ACL tears occur annually in the United States.
- 2) The National ACL Injury Coalition, convened through Project Play, has established a nationally recognized, evidence-based framework to reduce ACL injuries among youth athletes across multiple sports by promoting standardized education, neuromuscular injury prevention training, and implementation resources for youth sports organizations, coaches, athletes, and parents.
- 3) It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of ACL injuries as a serious and preventable public health issue with long-term health, economic, and equity implications, and that California promote education, injury surveillance, research, and evidence-based prevention efforts statewide.

This resolution proclaims the month of May 2026 as Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Injury Awareness Month in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/29/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/29/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/1/26 13:13:10

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 156
Author: Dahle (R), et al.
Introduced: 4/9/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: National Stroke Awareness Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution declares the month of May 2026 as National Stroke Awareness Month.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Stroke is a neurological emergency caused by sudden blockage of an artery in the brain or sudden bleeding in the brain that is both preventable and treatable. One in three Americans cannot name any of the signs or symptoms of a stroke, and more than one-half of Americans do not know if they are at risk for a stroke.
- 2) The B.E.F.A.S.T. warning signs of stroke include the sudden onset of the following symptoms: Balance-loss of balance or coordination; Eyes-vision loss or double vision; Face-face drooping; Arm-arm weakness; Speech-speech difficulty; and Time-time to call 9-1-1; and beyond B.E.F.A.S.T., additional stroke warning signs and symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion; sudden trouble speaking or difficulty understanding; sudden trouble walking; sudden dizziness; and sudden severe headache with no known cause.
- 3) The American Heart Association urges people to lower their risk of heart disease and stroke by focusing on “Life’s Simple 7” key health factors and behaviors: managing blood pressure, controlling cholesterol, reducing blood sugar, getting active, eating better, losing weight, and stopping smoking.

This resolution urges all Californians to familiarize themselves with the risk factors associated with stroke, to recognize the warning signs and symptoms of stroke,

and, at the first signs of a stroke, to dial 9-1-1 immediately in order to begin to reduce the devastating effects of stroke on our population

Related/Prior Legislation

SR 40 (Dahle, 2025) – Adopted in the Senate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/20/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/20/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
4/22/26 14:04:19

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 163
Author: Ochoa Bogh (R), et al.
Introduced: 4/20/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: California Tourism Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution declares every May as California Tourism Month to celebrate the positive economic impact of tourism in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Travel and tourism is a multifaceted sector that provides diverse career pathways and remains foundational to a healthy labor market, having contributed 4,350 new jobs to bring the total workforce to 1,200,000 in 2025.
- 2) Visitor spending provides substantial benefit to all Californians, yielding \$13.6 billion in state and local tax revenue in 2025 that is indispensable for underwriting essential public services and programs.
- 3) California's strength lies in its diversity, and the state is committed to building a more inclusive and unified travel community for its residents and visitors alike.

This resolution declares every May as California Tourism Month to celebrate the positive economic impact of tourism in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 65 (Ward, Resolution Chapter 94, Statutes of 2025)
ACR 186 (Gipson, Resolution Chapter 103, Statutes of 2024)
ACR 72 (Wallis, Resolution Chapter 98, Statutes of 2023)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
4/29/26 16:22:18

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 166
Author: Choi (R), et al.
Introduced: 4/23/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Soju Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution celebrates September 20, 2026, as Soju Day in this state.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Soju, a traditional Korean distilled beverage, holds significant cultural, historical, and social importance, not only within the Korean community but increasingly across the United States.
- 2) Soju has become an emblem of unity, celebration, and tradition for Korean Americans, serving as a bridge of cultural exchange and enhancing cross-cultural understanding in our diverse society.
- 3) Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2069 (Chapter 306 of the Statutes of 2024) into law in 2024, which allows California on-sale beer and wine licensees to also offer domestically produced soju and shochu to their customers, when previously those licensees were only authorized to offer imported Korean soju and Japanese shochu.
- 4) The new law is likely to encourage domestic production of soju in California, and it is highly anticipated that new distilleries will contribute to the California economy by the consumption of California rice and other agricultural products in producing soju.
- 5) The establishment of Soju Day is intended to foster deeper appreciation for Korean heritage and culture, strengthen community bonds, and promote unity among people from diverse backgrounds.

This resolution encourages the citizens of this state to join in the celebration of Soju Day by learning about Korean culture, attending community events, and engaging in the rich traditions that soju represents.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 95 (Choi, Resolution Chapter 183, Statutes of 2025)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:35

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 168
Author: Jones (R) and Grayson (D), et al.
Introduced: 4/27/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in California

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution designates the month of May 2026 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Motorcycle riding is a popular form of efficient transportation and recreation for Californians and visitors to our Golden State. Motorcyclists travel approximately 21 million miles per year in the United States, riding an average of 2,500 miles each. Motorcycles provide a means of transportation that uses fewer resources, causes less wear and tear on public roadways, and increases available parking areas.
- 2) Through the Department of the California Highway Patrol's California Motorcyclist Safety Program, the state has trained over 1.2 million riders out of the 1.4 million total riders licensed since the start of the program in the 1980s. Along with the assistance of the California Office of Traffic Safety, rider education, and the Department of Transportation's freeway message boards, these efforts have led to a 10% decrease in annual motorcyclist fatalities compared to the number of fatalities in 2022 and 2023, while at the same time, the national average of annual motorcyclist fatalities has increased by 1% since 2022 and 2023. California leads the way in training and safety for motorcyclists, and we are saving lives.
- 3) ABATE of California, which is a motorcyclists' rights and safety organization, the American Motorcyclist Association, the Bay Area Riders Forum, and the California Motorcycle Dealers Association are organizations that actively promote the safe operation of motorcycles, advocate for more rider training

courses through California Highway Patrol provider Total Control Training, and advocate for increasing motorist recognition of motorcycles.

- 4) It is important that drivers of all vehicles be aware of one another, learn to share the road, and practice courtesy.

This resolution designates the month of May 2026 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in California, acknowledges the need for awareness on the part of all drivers, especially with regard to sharing the road with motorcycles, and honors motorcyclists' many contributions to the communities in which they live and ride.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 74 (Wilson, Resolution Chapter 100, Statutes of 2025)

ACR 74 (Friedman, Resolution Chapter 108, Statutes of 2023)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:37

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 169
Author: Gonzalez (D)
Introduced: 4/29/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Women's Small Business Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution declares October 2026 as Women's Small Business Month and encourages all citizens to recognize the economic importance of women's small businesses in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) October is recognized as Women's Small Business Month because the law that allowed women to take out a loan in their own name, the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-533), was signed on October 25, 1988.
- 2) Among women, women of color are the fastest growing demographic of new business owners. Women-owned businesses represent 42% of all businesses and women of color account for 50% of all female business owners.
- 3) In 2025, the Small Business Development Center helped establish 1,231 women-owned businesses in California, creating 4,099 jobs and receiving \$198,000,000 in capital contributions.

This resolution declares October 2026 as Women's Small Business Month and encourages all citizens to recognize the economic importance of women's small businesses in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 114 (Pacheco, Resolution Chapter 196, Statutes of 2025)

ACR 109 (Reyes, Resolution Chapter 169, Statutes of 2023)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:38

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 170
Author: Grayson (D)
Introduced: 4/29/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Firefighter Mental Health Awareness Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the week of May 25 to May 29, inclusive, as Firefighter Mental Health Awareness Week.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Firefighting is a dangerous and physically demanding profession that requires the men and women of the fire service to routinely put themselves in harm's way for the good of the communities that they serve.
- 2) In addition to the physical demands of the profession, firefighting has been consistently rated as one of the most stressful and emotionally intense professions, often listed second only to front-line military personnel.
- 3) Long shifts, protracted time spent away from family and loved ones, and an ingrained culture of stoicism exacerbate the effects of these stresses, contributing to struggles and behavioral health issues including depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Studies have shown that one in five firefighters will experience a post-traumatic stress injury at some point in their career, and that firefighters are 10 times more likely to contemplate or attempt suicide than the general public.
- 4) According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, 127 firefighters and EMTs died by suicide in 2024, an increase in reports from previous years.
- 5) Peer support programs and confidential discussions with trusted colleagues and peers with similar work and life experiences provide not only an outlet to express these struggles but also allow for connections to life-saving resources.

This resolution proclaims the week of May 25 to May 29, inclusive, as Firefighter Mental Health Awareness Week.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 76 (Grayson, Resolution Chapter 100, Statutes of 2023)

ACR 192 (Grayson, Resolution Chapter 95, Statutes of 2022)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171

5/6/26 13:50:39

**** **END** ****

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SJR 7
Author: Cervantes (D), et al.
Amended: 2/26/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 8-3, 6/30/25
AYES: Ashby, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Menjivar, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Umberg, Weber Pierson
NOES: Choi, Niello, Strickland

SENATE FLOOR: 26-9, 7/17/25
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero,
Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón,
McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland,
Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-13, 4/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Tariffs

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution urges President Donald J. Trump to rescind the increase in tariffs that he has imposed since taking office in January 2025 and refund the American people for the costs passed on to them by his tariffs and urges the United States Congress to enact a joint resolution to rescind President Trump's tariffs oppose all future unilateral and arbitrary tariff increases imposed by President Trump.

Assembly Amendments of 2/26/26 urge President Trump to refund the American people for tariff costs passed on to them. Add declarations related to the powers of

Congress, the consumer costs related to tariffs, and the Supreme Court decision related to tariffs. Make technical changes and add coauthors.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law authorizes the president, via the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), to regulate international commerce after declaring a national emergency in response to any unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States which has a foreign source. It further authorizes the president to block transactions, freeze assets, and restrict imports and exports of certain goods or technologies to deal with the threat and requires the president to report to Congress every six months on the circumstances, threats and actions taken. In the event of an actual attack on the United States, the president can also confiscate property connected with a country, group, or person that aided in the attack. The act falls under the provisions of the National Emergencies Act and must be renewed annually to remain in effect. (Public Law 95-223; 50 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 1701-1705)

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) for the purpose of serving as the lead state entity for economic strategy and marketing of California on issues relating to business development, private sector investment and economic growth. (Government Code (GC) §§ 12096 – 12098.7)
- 2) Specifies that GO-Biz is the primary state agency authorized to attract foreign investments, cooperate in international public infrastructure projects, and support California businesses in accessing markets, and requires the Director of GO-Biz to develop an international trade and investment program (ITI Program) attracting employment-producing direct foreign investment to the state and providing support for California businesses in accessing international markets and increasing exports. (GC § 13996.41)

This resolution:

- 1) Urges President Donald J. Trump to rescind the increase in tariffs that he has imposed since taking office in January 2025 and refund the American people for the costs passed on to them by his tariffs and urges the United States Congress to enact a joint resolution to rescind President Trump's tariffs and to

oppose all future unilateral and arbitrary tariff increases imposed by President Trump.

- 2) Makes declarations related to the constitutional authority granted to Congress and its authority to “regulate commerce with foreign nations” and state that the constitutional power to tax and regulate foreign commerce is among the most consequential powers of Congress.
- 3) Makes various declarations about consensus relating to free trade and statements from Presidents Eisenhower and Reagan about free trade.
- 4) Highlights a 2022 address by Donald J. Trump to the Heritage Foundation and Heritage Foundation produced 2025 Presidential Transition Project, commonly known as Project 2025, which argues for the imposition of severe tariffs on foreign trade.
- 5) States that President Trump declared a national emergency on April 2, 2025, pursuant to IEEPA which allowed him to impose a 10% base tariff on all foreign goods imported from foreign countries into the United States and imposed even higher tariffs on 57 countries. States that after the tariff announcement, stock markets around the world engaged in panic selling, which caused the largest decline in global stock markets since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6) States that low-income and middle-class American households have been hit hardest by the price increases caused by President Trump’s tariffs, with the price of essential goods like bananas, coffee, and toilet paper rising.
- 7) States that while California faces an ongoing housing crisis, the increase in prices caused by President Trump’s tariffs will raise the price of building materials, which will in turn make the cost of a new home rise by about \$9,200 according to the National Association of Home Builders based on data from March 2025.
- 8) States that California farmers exported more than \$23 billion worth of food in 2022, with almonds topping the list, followed by dairy products, pistachios, and wine. According to a 2024 study by the University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, if the United States imposed a 10% tariff on all goods from all countries and those countries responded similarly,

estimated annual export losses would be between \$3.1 billion and \$4.8 billion for California agribusiness.

- 9) States that due to the imposition of tariffs, shipping volume in May 2025 at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach fell by up to 40 percent, imperiling the supply chain of goods from Asia into the United States, a development which President Trump called “a good thing.”
- 10) States that American consumers paid more than \$231 billion in tariff costs between February 2025 and January 2026, an average of approximately \$1,751 per household nationwide, with California households projected to lose between \$1,900 and \$2,000 due to the disproportionate impact of tariffs on the state.
- 11) States that President Trump’s tariffs have caused global chaos and threaten the strength of the United States’ longstanding relationships with foreign nations and longtime American allies like the United Kingdom, the European Union, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.
- 12) States that on February 20, 2026, in a 6 to 3 decision written by Chief Justice John Roberts, the United States Supreme Court ruled that President Trump exceeded his constitutional authority by wrongfully claiming emergency powers from the IEEPA to impose sweeping tariffs on nearly every trading partner of the United States, and illegally imposing the largest tax increase on working families and small businesses in our lifetime; and despite this rebuke by the Supreme Court, President Trump has invoked alternative statutory authority to continue imposing sweeping tariffs without congressional authorization, thereby prolonging the economic uncertainty plaguing the American and global economies, and further straining the limits of the separation of powers.
- 13) States President Trump’s agenda to impose tariffs on imports will harm working families by increasing the costs of everyday goods, increase inflation and derail the nation’s economic recovery from the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, leave small businesses reeling from unpredictable periods of tariffs being imposed then paused without warning, and dangerously undermine the standing of the United States on the global stage.

Background

Currently, GO-Biz administers an International Affairs and Business Development Unit, which serves as California's primary point of contact for expanding international trade and investment relations. This unit focuses on foreign direct investment (services for foreign investors, foreign investment technical assistance, and the EB-5 Investor Visa Program), international trade promotion (STEP program, trade missions, export assistance, and the California-China Trade Office), and international agreements.

GO-Biz currently has authority for undertaking international trade and foreign investment activities. The *International Affairs and Trade Program* report prepared by GO-Biz in 2023 notes that the International Affairs and Trade team (IAT) advises the Governor on international affairs and trade issues, implements strategies to develop and grow partnerships and engagement with foreign partners, and provides recommendations to promote and expand California's trade and foreign direct investment. According to the report, IAT works with a robust network of international partners to promote California exports, support small businesses in accessing global markets, and attract inward investment that brings high-quality jobs to Californians. IAT executed several major international events, including a Clean Energy Trade Mission to Japan with over 100 delegates from California's public and private sectors, a climate-focused gubernatorial visit to China, and a California pavilion at the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit. IAT also successfully implemented trade missions to key markets such as Mexico, China, Japan, and Germany in a variety of strategic sectors, among other efforts and activities.

According to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, industrial goods encompass all non-agricultural goods and include products such as machinery, autos and transportation equipment, information technology products, minerals and metals, petroleum, chemicals, textiles and clothing, leather and footwear, consumer goods, wood products, and fish and fish products. Industrial tariffs are customs duties on non-agricultural merchandise imports, levied either as a percentage of the value or on a specific basis (e.g., \$1 per 100 pounds).

According to February 2025 information from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), "In 2024, California's total merchandise trade reached \$675 billion—close to 16% of state GDP. California imports 2.7 times more goods than it exports, reflecting the purchasing power of the state's market. However, imports also include intermediate goods used in the manufacturing of California products

that could eventually be exported. In this way, tariffs on imported goods may have direct effects on consumers, producers, and exporters in the state. Manufactured goods dominate California exports at 87% (\$159 billion)—computer equipment, semiconductors, instruments, and aerospace products and parts are at the top of manufacturing exports. The state also leads the nation in agricultural exports (\$15 billion), with products like nuts, processed and fresh fruits, and processed vegetables generating an important revenue stream for California farmers.

PPIC noted that “tariffs imposed in 2018 and 2019 led to higher prices across the country for consumer goods—like washing machines and solar panels, and for intermediate goods—like aluminum and steel. Higher costs were largely paid by American consumers and firms. At the time, these higher prices didn’t necessarily impact overall prices—that is, inflation—in a major way. In manufacturing sectors, such as aluminum production and household appliances, lower employment and output in the short-term were due to rising costs of imported materials necessary for production and retaliatory tariffs.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/21/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-13, 4/20/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Castillo, Davies, Flora, Patterson, Celeste
Rodriguez, Ward

Prepared by: Elissa Silva/Anna Billy/Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
4/21/26 16:29:43

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SJR 13
Author: Padilla (D), et al.
Introduced: 3/24/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SUBJECT: Transboundary flow pollution: United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution urges the United States to secure specified commitments regarding transboundary pollution at the 2026 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) joint review.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

- 1) Authorizes the President of the United States to enter into a trade agreement, as specified, with foreign countries providing for the reduction or elimination of a duty, restriction, barrier, or other distortion, as specified, and the prohibition or limitation on the imposition of such barrier or other distortion. (19 United States Code (USC) § 4202(b))
- 2) Approves and implements the USMCA between the United States, the United Mexican States, and Canada. (19 USC § 4501 et seq.)
- 3) Requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to carry out the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of high-priority treatment works in the portion of the Tijuana River watershed that is in the United States to treat wastewater, nonpoint sources of pollution, and related

matters resulting from international transboundary water flows originating in Mexico. (19 USC § 4731)

This Resolution:

1) Makes the following findings:

- a) The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) marked a major shift in trade and economic engagement among the United States, Mexico, and Canada, that led to rapid expansion of manufacturing facilities in northern Mexico.
- b) The rapid concentration of industrial and residential activities in northern Mexico placed increasing demands on wastewater, stormwater, and environmental infrastructure, and contributed to transboundary pollution flows into the Tijuana River Valley and New River.
- c) The transboundary pollution flows have forced beach closures, harmed local tourism and small businesses, jeopardized the health of residents, and disrupted United States Navy training operations in the County of San Diego.
- d) The contamination from transboundary pollution raises serious environmental justice concerns, as pollution impacts border communities that are disproportionately composed of working-class communities and communities of color.
- e) The USMCA was negotiated to update and modernize the trade framework under NAFTA, including provisions related to environmental protection and cross-border cooperation.
- f) Despite commitments under the USMCA, transboundary pollution has continued, with more than 100 billion gallons entering the United States in the last five years.
- g) The USMCA includes a six-year joint review mechanism, with the first review scheduled in 2026, presenting an opportunity to ensure that existing commitments resolving transboundary pollution are fully realized.
- h) The transboundary sewage crisis undermines the environmental integrity and enforceability of the USMCA and threatens the health, economic stability, and environmental well-being of Californians.
- i) The Trump administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mexico in 2025, concluded International Boundary and Water Commission Minute 333, and pledged a “100% solution” to stop transboundary pollution.
- j) The USMCA presents an opportunity for the Trump administration to secure that solution through enforceable commitments.

- 2) Resolves, on behalf of the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, that:
 - a) The Legislature urges the United States to secure and publicly adopt measurable and sustained commitments to eliminate transboundary sewage discharges into the Tijuana River watershed and New River at the 2026 USMCA joint review.
 - b) The measurable and sustained commitments secured and adopted at the 2026 USMCA joint review include at minimum:
 - i) Specific numeric discharge-reduction benchmarks;
 - ii) Investment into—and enforceable timelines for—completion of wastewater infrastructure projects; and
 - iii) Annual public reporting on compliance.
 - c) The United States commit to automatic nonrenewal of the USMCA if there is a failure of establishing commitments, benchmarks, and timelines.

Background

- 1) *United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)*. The USMCA is a free trade agreement that outlines rules for duty-free trade and establishes commitments on non-tariff issues, including labor, environment, investment, digital trade, and services. USMCA created a more balanced, reciprocal trade, benefitting American workers, farmers and agriculture, and the economy through new protections.¹ The Agreement became effective in July 2020 and replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was established in 1994. NAFTA was a comprehensive free trade agreement that lowered trade barriers and accelerated trade with Mexico and Canada.²
- 2) *Addressing transboundary pollution*. For decades, millions of gallons of untreated sewage and stormwater runoff have frequently polluted the Tijuana River Valley and the New River near the United States-Mexico border. Rapid population growth, industrial development, and urbanization driven by foreign investment in Mexico, which was exacerbated by the establishment of NAFTA, have overwhelmed aging and underfunded sewage infrastructure leading to structural failures. These failures and the limited capacity of the systems have resulted in cross-border, or transboundary flows consisting of raw sewage, industrial chemicals, stormwater, pesticides, and trash that spill into

¹ Office of the United States Trade Representative. (n.d.). [United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement](#).

² Congressional Research Service. (2017). [The North American Free Trade Agreement \(NAFTA\)](#).

California's coastal waters, decimate the environment, disrupt local and regional economies, and impact the public health of border communities. Over the years, there have been binational efforts to implement infrastructure improvements.

Chapter 24 of USMCA aimed to promote high levels of environmental protection and effective enforcement of environmental laws in addressing trade-related environmental issues.³ In alignment with these objectives, the provisions of Section 821 of USMCA require the Administrator of the U.S. EPA to carry out the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of high priority treatment works to treat transboundary pollution in the Tijuana River watershed within the United States.⁴

Congress has appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars through the provisions of USMCA Section 821 to fund and administer the Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP), which facilitates infrastructure implementation along the border to address drinking water and sanitation issues.^{4,5,6,7,8}

In 2021, the U.S. EPA developed a Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution, focused primarily on the Tijuana River Valley, that would guide efforts for years to come. This included a suite of binational infrastructure improvement projects that could significantly improve the conditions in the Tijuana River Valley.⁹ In 2022, the U.S. EPA and its Mexican counterpart signed the Statement of Intent, which created a framework for implementing a Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution that specified near-term (2022-2027) and long-term projects, and identified resources.¹⁰ The International Boundary and Water Commission, which has worked to address water quality and sanitation issues across the border since 1944, has issued a series of "Minutes" since its inception, outlining actions to meet their obligations. Most recently issued in December 2025, Minute 333 demonstrates a commitment to continue implementing the projects within the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution and additional actions to mitigate the impacts of transboundary pollution. The

³ United States Trade Representative. (2020). [USMCA Chapter 24: Environment](#).

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2025). [Tijuana River Watershed Provisions in United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement \(USMCA\)](#).

⁵ Jennewein, C. (2019). [New USMCA Trade Deal Includes \\$300 Million to Stop Tijuana River Pollution](#).

⁶ Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, H.R.4665, 118th Congress 2023-2024 Session, (2023).

⁷ [Water Resources Development Act, H.R.8812](#), 118th Congress 2023-2024 Session.

⁸ [American Relief Act, H.R.10545](#), 118th Congress 2023-2024 Session.

⁹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2021) [EPA Announces Holistic Approach to Address Water Pollution from the Tijuana River Watershed](#).

¹⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Comisión Nacional del Agua. (2022). [Statement of Intent](#).

Trump administration has also reaffirmed its commitments under previous Minutes and additional obligations through a July 2025 MOU with Mexico.

Throughout the implementation of the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution, projects have experienced funding shortfalls and delays. However, both the United States and Mexico have continued to make progress and commit funding to complete the projects that would help resolve the severity of the transboundary pollution. Nevertheless, it is a long road ahead.

- 3) *USMCA joint review.* As outlined in Article 34.7 of the USMCA, the Agreement is set to terminate in 2036, unless each participating party confirms that it wishes to continue the Agreement for a new 16-year term, in accordance with specified procedures.¹¹ As part of the procedure, the Free Trade Commission (FTC), composed of government representatives of each party, is required to meet on the sixth anniversary of the establishment of the USMCA to conduct a “joint review” of the operation of the USMCA and decide on any recommendations for action.

The first joint review is scheduled to take place on July 1, 2026. Parties may provide recommendations for the FTC to take action at least one month before the joint review takes place. Additionally, each party is to confirm if it wishes to extend the USMCA for another 16-year period, and if extended, another joint review will take place six years after the extension is granted. If any party does not confirm its wish to extend the USMCA, then the FTC is required to conduct a joint review every year for the remainder of the 16-year term of the Agreement.^{11,12}

The establishment of the joint review provision was controversial. Members of Congress were concerned that conducting joint reviews would create uncertainty that could discourage private investment and harm U.S. businesses. Other Members argued that the joint review provision would allow Congress to exert greater oversight with periodic review.¹²

This resolution urges the United States to secure and adopt measurable and enforceable commitments within USMCA to eliminate the flow of transboundary sewage into the Tijuana and New River watersheds at the joint review. The proposed revisions to the USMCA outlined in this resolution are likely a few of many desired revisions to the USMCA, and the joint review

¹¹ United States Trade Representative. (2020). [USMCA Chapter 34: Final Provisions](#).

¹² Congressional Research Service. (2026). [USMCA Joint Review: Process and Role of Congress](#).

does provide an opportunity for the United States to revise the USMCA in negotiation with the other parties and for Congress to provide input.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, “Trade agreements must not ignore environmental harm and the real public threat increased economic activity has on our border communities. Ensuring renewal of the USMCA must depend on measurable progress. Our federal government must secure real and meaningful protection for our community. By halting all discussion of extensions until we have clear commitments from Mexico to address this crisis, we can finally take real steps towards ending this generations long injustice. Economic prosperity cannot come at the expense of California’s environment and communities’ health.”
- 2) *Time is of the essence.* As described in the background section above, the first 6-year joint review is scheduled for July 1, 2026. The United States will need to provide recommendations to the FTC at least one month prior to this date for the recommendations to be considered. Considering the steps of the legislative process this resolution must still go through, it would likely not be transmitted in time to be formally considered by any of its federal recipients ahead of the joint review.

Even if this resolution is not formally adopted in time, federal advocacy informed by its contents can still happen prior to these deadlines. Regardless, the resolution may still have a tangible impact, as it is possible that a party to the USMCA may not decide to extend the USMCA. In that case, the next joint review would likely be scheduled for July 1, 2027, which would present another opportunity to more formally include the proposed commitments in the USMCA. *Depending on the timing of this resolution and the actions taken at the 2026 joint review, the author may wish to consider amending the resolution accordingly.*

- 3) *Adopting measurable commitments.* This resolution urges the United States to ensure measurable commitments to eliminate transboundary sewage are part of the revisions made to the USMCA during the joint review. Some of the measurable commitments include, at minimum, specific numeric discharge-reduction benchmarks and enforceable timelines for completion of wastewater infrastructure projects. If these commitments are not adopted, the United States is urged to commit to automatic nonrenewal of the USMCA.

The request for these revisions merits careful consideration. If the commitments are considered unrealistic by the federal government, the Legislature risks denial of the request proposed by this resolution. For instance, adopting a specific numeric discharge-reduction benchmark could be considered challenging. The extent of discharge is dependent on the condition of the wastewater infrastructure, which is contingent on the progress made with the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution as well as the ability to sufficiently perform operation and maintenance, all of which requires substantial amounts of funding. Targeted reductions could be estimated in broad ranges to account for this, but the benchmarks would also need to take into account local climate and weather patterns, which introduces a higher level of uncertainty. Heavy rain events tend to lead to 10's of billions of gallons of transboundary pollution in a short period of time. Any numeric benchmark adopted may best be measured for dry-weather flows.

Timelines for infrastructure improvements may be a more reasonable commitment, but these timelines are already indicated in the Minutes issued by the IBWC and other previous agreements. And as with any capital improvement project, progress may be impeded by delays or unexpected funding constraints. This may present issues if these timelines are to be enforceable. What would the consequences be if a deadline isn't met and to whom would they apply? If penalties were established, would they be established against a certain party in the Agreement or with other entities? Would there be implications for the other provisions of USMCA? What would be the broader implications of enforcement? The need for accountability is understandable, but the cost at which that accountability comes needs to be understood.

Future renewal of the USMCA could be called into question if the federal government decided to pursue these measurable commitments as proposed and they could not be achieved for any reason. This has broader implications beyond these two crises, which signals how high this issue should be prioritized, yet it may not be. But it might also be of consideration to ensure such proposed commitments could ultimately be agreed on first domestically, then internationally.

Related/Prior Legislation

AJR 16 (Alvarez, 2025) urges Congress and the United States President to fully fund the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution and take additional specified

actions to address ongoing transboundary pollution. This bill is awaiting hearing in this committee.

SJR 18 (Padilla, Chapter 175, Statutes of 2024) made a number of declarations regarding health impacts associated with pollution in the Tijuana River, and requests that the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigate health concerns raised by this pollution.

AJR 12 (Alvarez, Chapter 201, Statutes of 2024) urged Congress and the United States President to fully fund the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution and address ongoing transboundary pollution impacting the New River and urged the United States President to declare a national emergency due to the impacts of transboundary pollution.

SB 867 (Allen, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024) enacted the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 authorizing the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10 billion to finance projects including, but not limited to drought, flood, and water resilience, coastal resilience, park creation, outdoor access, and clean air programs.

AB 1597 (Alvarez, 2023) would have authorized funds made available to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) for North American Development Bank for loans, grants, and expenditures to address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border watersheds. This bill was placed on the suspense file in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SJR 22 (Hueso, Chapter 241, Statutes of 2018). Urges the federal government and the U.S. Section of the IBWC to take immediate action to adequately address cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/22/26)

Alianza Coachella Valley
Boys & Girls Club of South County
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership
Coastal Defenders
Environmental Center of San Diego
Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
LA Cooperativa Campesina De California
Latino Outdoors
Los Amigos De LA Comunidad, INC.

Outdoor Outreach
Project Kolika
San Diego State University
Sandiego350
Sierra Club
Sierra Service Project
Stop the Sewage
Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter
Tijuana River Coaliton
Un Mar De Colores
Wildcoast
YMCA of San Diego County

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/22/26)

None received

Prepared by: Taylor McKie / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
4/22/26 16:26:28

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 67
Author: Blakespear (D), et al.
Introduced: 1/5/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, honors the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and encourages all Californians to celebrate this milestone with pride.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming the birth of the United States of America, affirming that all people are endowed with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- 2) The year 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of this historic occasion, offering an opportunity to reflect on the enduring ideals of liberty, democracy, and self-governance.
- 3) Although not one of the original 13 colonies, California has played a vital role in advancing and sustaining the American experiment, growing into the most populous and diverse state in the union and serving as a global leader in innovation, culture, and democratic engagement.
- 4) Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is not only an occasion to celebrate our shared history, but also a call to recommit ourselves to the ongoing and unfinished work of creating a more perfect union.

This resolution commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, honors the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit

of happiness, and encourages all Californians to celebrate this milestone with pride.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 1/13/25)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 1/13/25)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
1/14/26 15:44:35

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 94
Author: Becker (D)
Introduced: 4/6/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Myositis Awareness Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution observes the month of May 2026 as Myositis Awareness Month in California, and encourages all citizens of California to come together, learn more about all the forms of myositis and its symptoms, and support the families in our community who will benefit from greater awareness of these rare diseases.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies, collectively referred to as myositis, are rare, chronic, autoimmune muscle wasting diseases. Myositis often features debilitating muscle inflammation and other symptoms, including pain, fatigue, and trouble swallowing. Myositis can result in myositis-associated interstitial lung disease.
- 2) More research is needed to identify the causes of, and modes of treatments for, the myositis group of diseases, including anti-MDA5 autoantibody positive myositis, anti-synthetase syndrome, dermatomyositis, juvenile dermatomyositis, immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy, inclusion body myositis, and polymyositis.
- 3) All who suffer with myositis experience reduced quality of life, especially as no cure has been found and life expectancy is shortened, especially for those with inclusion body myositis.
- 4) The Myositis Association is the leading international patient advocacy organization serving the myositis community, focusing on patient services,

education, research, and public awareness, so as to achieve a world without myositis.

This resolution observes the month of May 2026 as Myositis Awareness Month in California, and encourages all citizens of California to come together, learn more about all the forms of myositis and its symptoms, and support the families in our community who will benefit from greater awareness of these rare diseases.

Related/Prior Legislation

SR 43 (Becker, 2025) – Adopted in the Senate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/13/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/13/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
4/15/26 13:55:45

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 95
Author: Niello (R), et al.
Amended: 4/21/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the month of May 2026 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month, and calls upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

Senate floor amendments of 4/21/26 add coauthors and make a non-substantive technical change.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe.
- 2) Thousands of new ALS cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS.
- 3) The exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS. On average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis.
- 4) Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families, and support research to eradicate this disease.

This resolution proclaims the month of May 2026 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month, and calls upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

Related/Prior Legislation

SR 42 (Choi, 2025) – Adopted in Senate.
ACR 87 (Nguyen, Resolution Chapter 108, Statutes of 2025)
ACR 190 (Dixon, Resolution Chapter 102, Statutes of 2024)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/13/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/13/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
4/22/26 14:56:48

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 97
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 4/27/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution commends Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and contributions to California, and recognizes May 2026 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

Senate Floor Amendments of 4/27/26 add coauthors.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides Californians with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.
- 2) California is home to over 7 million Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, more than any other state, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in the state and nation.
- 3) Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made indelible contributions throughout the history of California and the United States that include, but are not limited to, building the Transcontinental Railroad, serving honorably in the United States Armed Forces, fighting for the United States in foreign wars, coorganizing the Delano Grape Strike, and advocating for civil rights.
- 4) Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to cultivate, advance, and lead in the fields of art, fashion, business, technology, education, science, government, law, humanities, medicine, sports, and entertainment.

This resolution commends Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and contributions to California, and recognizes May 2026 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 58 (Wahab, Resolution Chapter 117, Statutes of 2025)
HR 35 (Fong, 2025) – Adopted in Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
4/29/26 16:22:20

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 102
Author: Richardson (D)
Introduced: 4/21/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: National Safe Boating Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes May 16 to May 22, 2026, inclusive, as National Safe Boating Week, and the start of a year-round effort to promote safe boating in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Department of Parks and Recreation estimates that 4 million Californians engage in boating, fishing, and other recreational activities on California's navigable waters.
- 2) In 2024, the United States Coast Guard counted 377 recreational boating accidents in California that involved 45 deaths, 203 injuries, and significant property damage. The majority of accidents are caused by human error or poor decisions, not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors.
- 3) Alcohol use remains the leading known contributing factor in all fatal boating accidents nationwide, accounting for 20% of total fatalities where the primary cause was known.
- 4) Seventy-six percent of reported boating accident victims who died in 2024 drowned, and of those drowning victims, 87% were not wearing life jackets.
- 5) Boating safety courses and boating safety campaigns can teach people how to adhere to better boating practices and make safer decisions.

This resolution recognizes May 16 to May 22, 2026, inclusive, as National Safe Boating Week, and the start of a year-round effort to promote safe boating in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

SR 39 (Richardson, 2025) – Adopted in Senate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/28/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171

4/29/26 16:22:21

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 105
Author: McNerney (D), et al.
Introduced: 4/27/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: National Tennis Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes the month of May 2026, and every May thereafter, as National Tennis Month in California and extends to all those affiliated with United States Tennis Association Incorporated (USTA) sincere best wishes for the future.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) On May 21, 1881, the USTA, originally known as the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, was founded in the City of New York, to create rules and standards for the emerging game of lawn tennis.
- 2) The USTA is the nonprofit, national governing body for tennis in the United States, and leads the promotion and growth of the sport at every level of play, from beginners to professionals at the United States Open Tennis Championships. The USTA is the largest tennis organization in the world, with over 550,000 members from every corner of the country.
- 3) The latest research by the Physical Activity Council shows that more than 25,700,000 Americans played tennis in 2024, an unprecedented 46% increase in participation over 2019 and the highest number of players since the Physical Activity Council study began in 2007.
- 4) By increasing the accessibility of tennis for Californians of all ages and abilities, the USTA has contributed to making California communities happier and healthier.

This resolution recognizes the month of May 2026, and every May thereafter, as National Tennis Month in California and extends to all those affiliated with United States Tennis Association Incorporated (USTA) sincere best wishes for the future.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:39

**** END ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 110
Author: Grove (R), et al.
Introduced: 4/30/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Hospital Week in California

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution designates the week of May 10, 2026, to May 16, 2026, inclusive, as Hospital Week in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) More than 450 rural, suburban, and urban hospitals throughout California provide critical access to care, supporting the health and well-being of diverse communities, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- 2) Hospital emergency departments in California are visited 15.5 million times a year, underscoring their importance as a vital access point for urgent and lifesaving care.
- 3) California hospitals train more than 15,000 doctors each year, representing a critical investment in the future of the state's health care workforce.
- 4) Hospitals throughout California generate more than \$406 billion in economic activity, playing a critical role in supporting jobs and local businesses
- 5) When a hospital reduces services, enters bankruptcy, or closes entirely, the impacts extend beyond health care access and can harm local economies, strain emergency medical systems, worsen health disparities, and force patients to travel long distances for emergency treatment, maternity care, specialty services, and other medically necessary care.
- 6) Preserving hospitals in rural and underserved areas is essential to protecting public health, promoting equity, and ensuring that all Californians can obtain timely and appropriate medical care.

This resolution designates the week of May 10, 2026, to May 16, 2026, inclusive, as Hospital Week in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 71 (Allen, Resolution Chapter 127, Statutes of 2025)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/6/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/6/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:41

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 143
Author: Pacheco (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/19/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: California Cities Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, inclusive, to be California Cities Week, and encourages all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Cities first arose when eight California municipalities incorporated in 1850 to provide essential safety and health services to the rapidly growing population of the territory of California, due to the periods of economic prosperity and immigration that followed the Gold Rush and both world wars.
- 2) Cities provide millions of Californians with essential services, including public libraries, fire departments, police departments, emergency medical and disaster response, parks and recreation, childcare, community and human services programs, solid waste and recycling management, water, sewer, utilities, land use planning, housing, economic development, transportation planning, maintenance of streets and roads, telecommunications, and more.
- 3) Today, California's 483 cities and towns vary in size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout the state, from small rural neighborhoods to large urban regions.

This resolution proclaims the week of April 19, 2026, to April 25, 2026, inclusive, to be California Cities Week, and encourages all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 44 (Pacheco, Resolution Chapter 66, Statutes of 2025)

ACR 137 (Pacheco, Resolution Chapter 65, Statutes of 2024)

ACR 54 (Pacheco, Resolution Chapter 61, Statutes of 2023)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

California Municipal Utilities Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171

5/6/26 13:50:30

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 149
Author: Hart (D), Addis (D) and Bennett (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/25/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: California Coastal Act of 1976

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution acknowledges and celebrates 50 years of coastal protection and affirms the state's longstanding commitment to protecting its coastal waters, as specified.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) In 1976, the Legislature passed the California Coastal Act and the State Coastal Conservancy Act, based on findings that the California coastal zone is a distinct and valuable natural resource of vital and enduring interest to all the people.
- 2) The California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy were created to implement these respective statutes, including the shared mandate to maximize public access to and along the coast.
- 3) The partnership between the California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy through their complementary authority has been responsible for the conservation of over 500,000 acres of natural lands as open space, the creation of more than 2,500 public accessways and easements to and along the coast, the restoration of more than 50,000 acres of coastal habitats, the designation and opening of 875 miles of the California Coastal Trail, and the investment of over \$2 billion in coastal conservation, restoration, public access, and climate resilience all while supporting a thriving \$51 billion coast and ocean economy.
- 4) The State Coastal Conservancy Act ensures that all Californians are able to enjoy our iconic coastline and benefit from public investment in the permanent protection, restoration, and climate resilience of the coast.

This resolution acknowledges the value of ecologically sound coastal protection combined with carefully planned development as essential to the economic and social well-being of the state for the next 50 years and beyond, and reaffirms the findings of our predecessors from 1976 that the permanent protection of the state's natural and scenic coastal resources is a paramount concern to present and future residents of the state and nation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

Audubon California
Azul
Black Surf Santa Cruz, Inc.
Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast
California Coastal Protection Network
California Coastkeeper Alliance
Center for Biological Diversity
City Surf Project
County Park Friends
Environment California
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Protection Information Center
Fish On
Heal the Bay
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Mujeres De La Tierra
Natural Resources Defense Council
Orange County Coastkeeper
Outdoor Outreach
Paddle for Peace
Queer Surf
Salted Roots
Save Our Shores
Surfrider Foundation
Un Mar De Colores
Wildcoast

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:31

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 158
Author: Solache (D), et al.
Introduced: 3/5/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Donate Life Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the month of April 2026 as Donate Life Month in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Legislature has established an official state organ and tissue donor registry that has become the largest in the world, with almost 20,000,000 people signed up to save and heal the lives of others after death, although there is work to be done with our growing population of over 40,000,000.
- 2) One thousand eight hundred fifty-three Californians became organ donors in 2025 and over 4,000 lifesaving transplants were performed in our state that year. Tragically, more than 800 people died while waiting due to the shortage of available organs.
- 3) Donate Life California's vision is that one day all Californians will embrace organ, eye, and tissue donation as their personal responsibility.

This resolution proclaims the month of April 2026 as Donate Life Month in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 51 (Hart, Resolution Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/5/26)

Donate Life California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/5/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:32

**** **END** ****

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 178
Author: Flora (R), et al.
Introduced: 4/16/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: National Rendering Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes April 21, 2026, as National Rendering Day.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The burden of responsibility for feeding the world extends beyond the farm, and rendering plays a critical role in ensuring we can meet the growing global demand for food, feed, and fuel while helping to reduce food waste and loss.
- 2) Up to one-half of each animal produced for meat is not consumed by humans due to North American consumer preferences, and rendering recycles these animal products into valuable ingredients for animal feed, renewable fuels, fertilizers, and other everyday products that would otherwise take up an enormous amount of precious landfill space and create public health concerns.
- 3) Renderers also collect billions of pounds of used cooking oil from restaurants and food manufacturers for upcycling into sustainable fuels, including biodiesel, that power trucks, trains, water vessels, and other vehicles.
- 4) Rendering is an essential, environmentally friendly process that significantly contributes to sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving landfill space, supporting a circular economy, and reducing reliance on imported resources.
- 5) The United States rendering industry annually recycles billions of pounds of material, contributes roughly \$10 billion in annual economic activity across the country, supports thousands of jobs nationwide, including in the State of California, and includes many small businesses that help drive the American economy.

- 6) It is no coincidence that National Rendering Day falls on the day before Earth Day, as renderers, dubbed the “original recyclers,” have been silently cleaning up our communities for centuries by ensuring no part of the animal is wasted and by helping drive forward a circular economy.

This resolution recognizes April 21, 2026, as National Rendering Day and commends the rendering industry and its workers for their vital contributions to environmental stewardship, public health, feeding the world, reducing food waste, and strengthening the economy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/6/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/6/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/6/26 13:50:33

**** **END** ****