

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 07/13/2017
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: CA Pan-Ethnic Health Network

BILL NUMBER: AB 179
AUTHOR: Cervantes, Sabrina
RELATED BILLS: AB 174

BILL SUMMARY: California Transportation Commission.

This bill requires the Governor to make every effort to ensure appointees to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) result in a diverse membership with expertise in transportation issues as well as experience working with disadvantaged communities. The bill also requires the Commission and the State Air Resources Board to jointly hold two meetings per year to better coordinate transportation and climate policy.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Commission reports there would be no cost with appointing a diverse membership but reports there may be costs of \$37,000 per year or more associated with the requirement to host two annual meetings with the California Air Resources Board. However, the Commission notes these costs may be avoidable if these meetings are scheduled with the normal monthly public Commission meetings.

The State Air Resources Board estimates costs associated with the bill to be minor and absorbable.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill as it is unclear what benefit would result from reconstituting Commission membership, or in what way the Commission's current membership is inadequate. The Commission is currently made up of members with backgrounds in labor organizations, business organizations, construction companies, real estate companies, and local transportation agencies.

The author's office notes that appointed members of the Commission should have experience working directly with disadvantaged communities, especially those burdened with or vulnerable to high levels of pollution, in addition to transportation expertise. The office also notes that this would follow a precedent set by other state boards and commissions with environmental justice representation, such as the California Air Resources Board and the California Coastal Commission. This bill is intended to address that concern, though it only requires the Governor to make every effort to ensure appointees have the specified experiences/background.

The Commission sets goals and targets for several transportation plans, such as the California Transportation Plan. The California Transportation Plan defines goals, performance-based policies, and strategies to achieve a statewide, integrated, multi-modal transportation system. The Commission also sets targets for Regional Transportation Plans, which Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies prepare to plan to meet current and future local transportation needs. At each of these planning stages, location, population, and impacts are reviewed and public meetings are held. This provides an opportunity for broad participation of the public, including representatives from disadvantaged communities.

Analyst/Principal (K. Stewart) S. Wells	Date 8/15/2017	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date 8/15/17
Department Deputy Director Orig. Signed By J.W.H.	AUG 16 2017		Date
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

AUTHOR

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COMMENTS (continued)

This bill also requires the Commission and the State Air Resources Board to hold at least two joint meetings per calendar year to coordinate implementation of transportation policies and implementation of 1) the Sustainable Freight Action Plan, 2) the California Transportation Plan, and 3) regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the automobile and light truck sector for 2020 and 2035. The Commission and Board already collaborate on these issues, so it is unclear what benefit would be achieved from requiring the two additional meetings per calendar year.

Related Legislation:

- AB 174 (Bigelow, 2017) requires at least one voting member of the Commission to reside in a rural county with a population of less than 100,000 individuals.
- AB 1982 (Bloom, 2016) would have added two members representing disadvantaged communities to the Commission. This bill failed to pass in the Assembly.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code	
	SO	LA	CO	PROP	FC	FC		
					2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	
	RV	98	FC		FC	FC	Code	
2600/Trans Comm	SO	No			-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0042
3900/Air Res Bd	SO	No			-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0044
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>							
0042	Highway Account, State, STF							
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF							