

March 30, 2023

An Update on Association-Sponsored and High-Priority Bills

As the 2023-24 Legislative Session continues, policy committee hearings are now in full swing, and Appropriations Committee hearings are just getting started. At this stage, hundreds of bills have endured tough negotiations between legislative staff, committee staff, and stakeholders as all parties work to move bills out of committee and amend spot bills. Among these are the Association's two co-sponsored bills and several high-priority bills, many of which the Association may take a position on after review by the State Legislative Committee.

The adjournment of Floor session today, March 30 marks the beginning of Spring Recess in the Legislature. The Legislature will reconvene on Monday, April 10.

Sponsored Bills

AB 463 (Hart) Electricity: Prioritization of Service: Public Transit Vehicles. (CO-SPONSOR)

This bill would provide transit agencies with priority access to electricity when facing grid disruptions caused by natural or man-made disasters, rolling blackouts, utility company "Public Safety Power Shutoffs" (PSPS), and increasing demand on California's electrical grid. The Association will be co-sponsoring this bill with the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District and the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District.

Status: This bill passed out of Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

A template support letter can be found [here](#).

AB 719 (Boerner Horvath) Medi-Cal Benefits. (CO-SPONSOR)

This bill would require Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCP) to reimburse public transit operators for nonmedical transportation (NMT) and nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) services. The Association will be co-sponsoring this bill with the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System.

Status: This bill will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on April 11. We urge members to submit their letters of support to the Committee by April 5 to be reflected in the bill analysis.

A template support letter can be found [here](#).

Highest Priority Legislation

SBX1-2 (Skinner) Energy: transportation fuels: supply and pricing: maximum gross gasoline refining margin.

This bill would authorize the California Energy Commission to establish a maximum margin and penalty on gasoline sold by California refiners.

Association Position: Watch

Status: This bill was signed by Governor Newsom on March 27, 2023.

SB 434 (Min) Transit Operators: Street Harassment Survey.

This bill would require top 10 transit agencies (by ridership) to survey riders to reduce street harassment on and around transit services.

Association Position: Work with Author

Status: This bill passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee and has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 617 (Newman) Public Contracts: Regional Transportation Agencies: Design-Build Procurement.

This bill would authorize a regional transportation agency to use progressive design-build procurement to design and construct projects on or adjacent to the state highway system.

Association Position: Work with Author. The Association is working with the author to include progressive design-build authority for transit.

Status: This bill has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

AB 96 (Kalra) Public Employment: Local Public Transit Agencies: Autonomous Transit Vehicle Technology.

This bill would require public transit employers to provide notice to the appropriate authority, within 12 months of project planning or deployment, if they intend to arrange new autonomous transit vehicle technologies that introduce new products, services, or types of operation, or they eliminate jobs or job functions.

Association Position: Oppose Unless Amended

Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee and is on the Assembly Floor.

AB 316 (Aguilar-Curry) Vehicles: Autonomous Vehicles.

This bill would define a "human safety operator" to be a person operating an autonomous vehicle or vehicle equipped with autonomous technology who is trained in operating and shutting off the vehicle.

Association Position: Watch

Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly Transportation committee and has been referred to the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee.

AB 610 (Holden) Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program: Free Student Transit Passes.

This bill would create the Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program, an elective program offering free youth transit passes to students. Under the program, a transit agency would partner with one or more educational institutions to receive new state funding to establish a fare free program, or to maintain, subsidize, or expand an existing fare free program. Under the program, a transit agency with an existing fare free program that benefits individuals aged 18 and under would be eligible to receive new state funding for transit operations in addition to the uses outlined above.

Association Position: Watch

Status: This bill passed out of Assembly Transportation Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 761 (Friedman/Gonzalez) Transit Transformation Task Force.

This bill would establish the Transit Transformation Task Force, which would report to the Legislature on a series of recommendations focused on growing public transit ridership and improving the public transit experience, among other things.

Association Position: Work with Author

Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly Transportation Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 819 (Bryan) Crimes: Public Transportation: Fare Evasion.

This bill would reduce existing penalties from a misdemeanor and fine to only a maximum \$400 fine for fare evasion and unauthorized use of discount tickets.

Association Position: Watch

Status: This bill passed out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1735 (Low) Transit Districts: Prohibition Orders.

This bill would authorize the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority to issue prohibition orders to any person cited for committing certain prohibited acts in transit facilities.

Association Position: Watch

Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Transportation Committee.

ACA 1 (Aguilar-Curry) Local Government Financing: Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure: Voter Approval.

This bill would lower the voter-threshold for the imposition, extension or increase of a special tax.

Association Position: Support with Amendments

Status: This bill was introduced on December 5.

In addition to these bills, the Association is tracking many other bills that impact transportation agencies, clean air programs, and employment. You can access our bill matrix [here](#) to learn more about the outcomes of these bills.

Please contact Legislative and Regulatory Advocate Alchemy Graham at 916-446-4656 or by email at alchemy@caltransit.org if you have any questions about this Legislative Bulletin.