



STATE LEGISLATION
By Rosalía Zamora, Chairman
February 2016

SB 903 Nguyen (R) Transportation funds: loan repayment.

STATUS: Urgency Bill, currently in Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.
SUPPORT. Existing law provides for loans of revenues from various transportation funds and accounts to the General Fund, including loans from the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund, with various repayment dates.

This bill would acknowledge, as of June 30, 2015, \$879,000,000 in outstanding loans of certain transportation revenues, and would require this amount to be repaid from the General Fund by June 30, 2016, to the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund for allocation to the Traffic Congestion Relief Program, the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund, the Public Transportation Account, and the State Highway Account, as specified. The bill would thereby make an appropriation. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

SBX1-13 Vidak (R) Office of the Transportation Inspector General.

STATUS: Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. (carried over from 2015)
SUPPORT. This bill would create the Office of the Transportation Inspector General in state government, as an independent office that would not be a subdivision of any other government entity, to build capacity for self-correction into the government itself and to ensure that all state agencies expending state transportation funds are operating efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with federal and state laws.

The bill would provide for the Governor to appoint the Transportation Inspector General for a 6-year term, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and would provide that the Transportation Inspector General may not be removed from office during the term except for good cause.

The bill would specify the duties and responsibilities of the Transportation Inspector General, would require an annual report to the Legislature and Governor, and would provide that funding for the office shall, to the extent possible, be from federal transportation funds, with other necessary funding to be made available from the State Highway Account and an account from which high-speed rail activities may be funded.

SCAX1-1 Huff (R) Motor vehicle fees and taxes: restriction on expenditures.

STATUS: Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. (carried over from 2015)

SCA 7 Huff (R) Motor vehicle fees and taxes: restriction on expenditures.

STATUS: Currently in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

SUPPORT BOTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. These two constitutional amendments (SCA) propose to amend the California Constitution to:

1) Prohibit the Legislature from borrowing revenues from fees and taxes imposed on vehicles or their use or operation, and from using those revenues other than as specifically permitted in the Constitution, with limited exceptions.

2) Prohibit revenues derived from motor vehicle taxes, motor vehicle fees and taxes, and vehicle license fees (VLFs) from paying the principal and interest on bonds or other indebtedness, except as explicitly provided.

3) Require that revenues derived from the portion of the VLF that exceeds the current rate of 0.65% be used solely for street and highway purposes.

SCR 69 Galgiani (D) Driver's licenses: instruction permits: minimum age.

STATUS: Currently in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

OPPOSE. This Senate Concurrent Resolution would request the Department of Motor Vehicles to conduct a study regarding the possible effects of reducing the minimum age for applying for an instruction permit to drive a motor vehicle from 15 years and 6 months of age to 15 years of age.

AB 1642 Obernolte (R) State responsibility areas: fire prevention fees.

STATUS: Currently in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

SUPPORT. Fire prevention fees are collected by the Board of Equalization. This bill extends the payment period and appeal process from 30 days to 60 days. If in a fiscal year there are sufficient amounts of money in the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund, the fee may not be collected that fiscal year.

SB 810 Gaines (R) Unmanned aircraft: fire interference.

STATUS: Currently in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

SUPPORT. Section 402.5 is added to the Penal Code, to read: (a) It is unlawful to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly operate an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system in a manner that prevents or delays the extinguishment of a fire, or in any way interferes with the efforts of firefighters to control, contain, or extinguish a fire, including, but not limited to, efforts to control, contain, or extinguish the fire from the air. A violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed six months, by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

AB 1546 Olsen (R) Vital records.

STATUS: Urgency Bill. Currently in the Senate Rules Committee.

SUPPORT. Requires the State Registrar, in consultation with the County Recorders' Association of California and other stakeholders, to study the security features for paper used to print vital records, or alternative security features that are equal to or better than those currently mandated. Requires the State Registrar to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2018. Contains an urgency clause to ensure that the provisions of this bill go into immediate effect upon enactment.

AB 1651 Obernolte (R) Public Utilities Commission: contracts.

STATUS: Currently in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SUPPORT. This bill would require the commission to publish a copy of each awarded contract that it enters into for goods or services and to identify specified information about the contract and contracting party on its Internet Web site.

The bill would require this information to be published no less frequently than once a month and be available free of charge on the commission's Internet Web site. The bill would also require the commission to make available on its Internet Web site audits conducted by the Department of General Services of the commission's contracting practices.

AB 1570 Chang (R) Collectibles: sale of autographed memorabilia.

STATUS: Currently in the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee.

SUPPORT. Existing law regulates the sale or offer to sell by a dealer to a consumer of a collectible in or from this state, as specified. Existing law defines the term "collectible" to mean an autographed **sports** item, as specified, sold or offered for sale in or from this state by a dealer to a consumer for \$5 or more. Existing law defines a "dealer" as, among other things, a person who is in the business of selling or offering for sale collectibles in or from this state, or a person who by his or her occupation holds himself or herself out as having knowledge or skill peculiar to collectibles. Existing law provides for the regulation of pawnbrokers and makes it unlawful for a person to engage in the business of a pawnbroker without a license issued by the chief of police, the sheriff, or where appropriate, the police commission. This bill would instead define the term "collectible" to mean **all** autographed items, whether or not sports related, as specified, and would make conforming changes to the provisions regulating the sale or offer to sell by a dealer to a consumer of a collectible in this state. The bill would exclude a pawnbroker licensed pursuant to a specified law from that definition of a dealer under specified circumstances.

SBX2-1 Beall (D) Developmental services: funding.

STATUS: Currently in the Senate Public Health and Developmental Services Committee. (carried over from 2015)

OPPOSE. Existing law requires an entity that receives payments between \$250,000 and \$500,000 per year from one or more regional centers to obtain either an independent audit or independent review report of its financial statements and requires an entity that receives payments that are equal to or more than \$500,000 per year to obtain an independent audit. Existing law exempts payments made using usual and customary rates for services provided by regional centers from these requirements.

This bill would instead require an entity to obtain only an independent review report of its financial statements relating to payments made by regional centers if it receives payments between \$250,000 and \$2,000,000 from one or more regional centers and would authorize these entities to apply for, and require the regional center to grant, a 2-year exemption from this requirement if the regional center does not find issues in the prior year's independent review report that have an impact on regional center services.

The bill would also require an entity to obtain an independent audit of its financial statements relating to payments made by regional centers if it receives payments that are equal to or more than \$2,000,000 and would authorize these entities to apply for, and require the regional center to grant, a 2-year exemption from the audit requirement if the prior year's audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, an unmodified opinion with additional communication, or a qualified

opinion with issues that are not material and pervasive. The bill would require a regional center to notify the department of any exemption it grants to an entity that receives a qualified opinion report. The bill would also exempt social security benefit payments from these requirements.

SCA 3 Morrell (R) Legislative procedure.

STATUS: Currently in the Senate Rules Committee. (carried over from 2015)

SUPPORT. The California Constitution prohibits either house of the Legislature from passing a bill until the bill with amendments has been printed and distributed to the Members. This Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) would also prohibit either house of the Legislature from passing a bill until the bill, in the form to be voted on, has been made available to the public, in print and published on the Internet, for at least 72 hours preceding the vote. This requirement would not apply to specified urgency bills upon the submission by the Governor to the Legislature of a written statement declaring that dispensing with the requirement is necessary to address a state of emergency.

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

Current Membership:

26 Democrats

14 Republicans

Each Senator represents 931,349 Californians. On each Senator's Home Page you will find his/her contact information, Capitol and District addresses and phone numbers, a map of the district, the Member's biography, a list of all the legislation authored by that Senator, his/her committee memberships, press releases and other publications, district links, and more. Please note that not all Senators wish to have a public email address.

<http://senate.ca.gov/>

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

Current Membership:

52 Democrats

28 Republicans

Each Assembly Member represents approximately 420,000 Californians. On each Assembly Member's Home Page you will find his/her email address, Capitol and District addresses and phone numbers, the Member's biography, a list of all the legislation authored by that Assembly Member, his/her committee memberships, press releases and other publications, district links, and more.

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