

TO: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

DATE: October 29, 2019

FROM: Rick Ramacier
General Manager



SUBJECT: 2019-20 State Legislative
Session - Year One Quick
Review

Background

The 2019 state legislative session was active. However, legislation directly touching transit was not a top priority. The California Transit Association (CTA) concentrated on six items that are summarized in the attachment. This includes two bills, SB742, and AB784 which CTA supported and were chaptered (signed into law) and two bills, AB314 and AB1351 which CTA opposed. AB1351 was chaptered and AB314 was vetoed. CTA also closely watched SB397 and AB752, both of which were chaptered.

In addition to the bills discussed in the attachment, CTA opposed two bills, AB1066, and SB336. AB1066 would have provided unemployment benefits to striking workers in California and this bill was vetoed. SB336 – Senator Dodd – would have barred public transit operators from operating any autonomous vehicles in any kind of revenue service. This bill was pulled from consideration by the author after CTA opposed the bill.

Action Requested

None.

September 17, 2019

Legislature Adjourns for Interim Recess, Governor Weighs Action on Priority Bills

On Friday, September 13, the Legislature adjourned for Interim Recess, closing out the first year of the 2019-20 Legislative Session. Governor Gavin Newsom now has until October 13 to act on the more than 700 bills sent to him in the final two weeks of the legislative session.

The Legislature will reconvene for the second year of the 2019-20 Legislative Session on January 6.

Of the more than a dozen priority bills the Association took positions on this year, four are currently on the Governor's desk, pending his signature or veto. We urge all our members to join the Association in requesting that the Governor sign or veto these bills as follows:

Urge the Governor to Sign

SB 742 (Allen) Intercity Passenger Rail Services: Motor Carrier Transportation of Passengers: This bill would authorize the state's three state-supported intercity passenger rail lines to sell tickets to motor coach service only.
> [View the Association's signature request letter](#)

AB 784 (Mullin) California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project: This bill would exempt zero-emission transit buses from the state portion of the sales tax until January 1, 2024.
> [View the Association's signature request letter](#)

Urge the Governor to Veto

AB 314 (Bonta) Public Employment: Labor Relations: Release Time: This bill would create uniform release time rights for public employees.
> [View the Association's veto request letter](#)

AB 1351 (Lackey) Transit Operators: Paratransit and Dial-A-Ride Services: Assessment: This bill would require the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), in consultation with public transit agencies, to assess the procedures they use to provide dial-a-ride and paratransit services to individuals with disabilities who are visiting their service territories and are certified to use another in-state public transit agency's similar dial-a-ride and paratransit services. This bill would then require CalSTA, after conducting and publishing the assessment, to adopt guidelines for the development of a statewide reciprocity program for these individuals.
> [View the Association's veto request letter](#)

Finally, the following bills the Association provided feedback on, but which we did not adopt a formal position on, are currently pending before Governor Newsom:

SB 397 (Glazer) Public Transit Operators: Passengers with Pets: Evacuation Orders: This bill would require the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with public transit operators and county emergency management officials, to develop best practices for allowing pets on public transit vehicles serving areas subject to an evacuation order.

AB 752 (Gabriel) Public Transit: Transit Stations: Lactation Rooms: This bill would require certain multimodal transit stations that commence operations or a renovation on or after January 1, 2021, to include a lactation room.

All signature or veto request letters should be addressed to Governor Newsom and emailed to his Legislative Unit at leg.unit@gov.ca.gov as soon as possible. If you have any questions about drafting or submitting your letters, please contact Legislative and Regulatory Advocate Michael Pimentel at michael@caltransit.org.

To see all the bills the Association weighed in on this year, please visit the Association's [online bill tracker](#).

Please contact Legislative and Regulatory Advocate Michael Pimentel at 916-446-4656 ext. 1034 or by email at michael@caltransit.org if you have any questions about this Legislative Bulletin.