

To: MP&L Committee

Date: February 26, 2014

From: Kristina Vassallo, Civil Rights Administrator

Reviewed by:

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**SUBJECT:** 2014 State Legislative Update

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### **Background:**

The development of legislative proposals has begun and is being considered for new Legislature. While additional positions may be considered as updates become available, below is a summary of those that County Connection intends to take interest in.

#### AB 1720

In 2011, several transit agencies were found in violation of the State's bus axle weight limit, which is currently set at a gross weight of 20,500 lbs./axle. Debate and discussion have risen since the law on weight limit is outdated and doesn't account for much of the equipment and accessibility features many buses include in present day. In 2013, a temporary exemption was put into place that provided relief to agencies who procured buses through 2014. Beginning January 1, 2015, the 20,500 lbs./axle weight limit would be reinstated.

The California Transit Association (CTA) is the Sponsor of AB 1720 and predicts that transit buses procured in 2015 will nevertheless, exceed the current bus weight limit. In order to provide an in depth study, allow an ample time for response, and to offer a long term solution, AB 1720 proposes to extend the exemption period until January 1, 2016.

#### AB 2445

Current law states that a district, in relation to community colleges, is prohibited from entering into a contract for transportation services by a transit system and funded by a fee for transportation services, unless approved by a majority of students within that district. AB 2445 intends to amend current law by allowing students to vote by campus. Therefore, entrance into a contract (as approved by the students in an electoral vote) will be authorized based upon the campus and not the district in its entirety.

### **Action Requested:**

Staff respectfully wishes the MP&L Committee to support and recommend to the full Board the following:

- AB 1720
- AB 2445, in concept, and seek amendments which allow Community College parking fees to subsidize transit fares on behalf of their students and faculty.