SENATE BILL SB-51

Introduced by Senator Laura Richardson (D-35)

An act relating to This bill aims to make public transportation more affordable, accessible, and environmentally clean for communities across California..

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-51, Laura Richardson (D-35). This bill aims to make public transportation more affordable, accessible, and environmentally clean for communities across California..

California allows public transportation to exist today. They have money that can go towards bus and train lines in some areas. California citizens that use public transportation could suffer from the cost and no transportation or polluting forms of transportation.

By spending money on decreasing the cost of public transportation for low income individuals. We can open more transportation lines in poor areas and buy buses that emit no pollution. This will open up more opportunities for people that use public transportation to get around. By having state funds they can provide these bus lines money to better there buses.

Vote: Majority. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** yes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

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SEC 1. This act shall be known as the Clean and Affordable Transit Act

SEC. 2. This act is intended to allow public transit systems that use clean energy to operate at an affordable price in local communities around California that depend on public transportation.

SEC. 3. Caltrans will establish a Clean and Affordable Transit Program that will allocate funds to local public transit agencies.

(a) Funds can be used to decrease prices for transit riders who may qualify as low-income.

(b) Funds can be used to help expand the number of routes to areas that don't currently have public transportation.

(c) These areas should be targeted to receive these funds if they qualify as low income and use public transportation at a higher rate.

SEC. 4. All local transportation agencies that receive funds from this act will have to spend some of their money on improving their existing modes of public transportation to become zero emissions or less polluting.

(a) Can be used to buy zero-emission buses, chargers and anything else that will allow for public transportation to become cleaner.

(b) Areas with higher rates of air pollution should be targeted.

SEC. 5. Caltrans will work with local public transit agencies to come up with qualifications on what someone needs to have to receive reduced fare pricing.

(a) Once someone qualifies as low income they can receive cheaper fares.

(b) Public transit systems that accept this program should ensure that the process to apply is easy and that people are informed about this opportunity.

SEC. 6. Each year the legislature will allocate funds through the state budget to provide for the Clean and Affordable Transit Program.

(a) These funds will be distributed to local public transportation systems that meet the criteria established by this act.

(b) Public transportation systems will have to report to Caltrans at the end of each year what they did with the money. How many people they allowed to have cheaper fares and how many buses/trains they converted to zero emissions.

SEC. 7. Caltrans will develop regulations for this act.