

Date of Hearing: August 18, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

SB 1473 (Committee on Governance and Finance) – As Amended July 27, 2020

Policy Committee: Local Government

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

**This bill has proposed author's amendments. See comment #3 below for details.**

This bill is the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2020, which proposes non-controversial changes to existing laws governing the powers and duties of local agencies. In addition, this year the bill contains a finding explaining there are provisions in the bill more substantive or less clearly within the jurisdiction of the committee than would otherwise be appropriate for the omnibus bill process. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Affects the Commercial and Industrial Common Interest Development Act, Mello-Roos special tax exemption, county health and welfare trust fund reporting, electronic filing of government claims, loans of county funds to resource conservation districts, Los Angeles County delegated authority, posting of connection fees online, reading of ordinances, Reclamation District 108 hydropower authorization, and very high fire hazard severity zones.
- 2) Also affects the Board of Equalization (BOE) Survey of Assessors, California Seed Law subventions, Community Land Trust cross-references, confidentiality of communications service provider information, Mills Act property tax calculations and the sales and use tax exemption for out-of-state trailer purchases.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) indicates this bill extends the current annual payment of \$120,000 (special fund) provided to county agricultural commissioners since 1987 to perform local seed inspection and enforcement services to ensure seeds sold in California are properly and accurately identified on the product label. All Seed Services Program expenditures are continuously appropriated and paid from industry fees.

Absent this bill, the Seed Services Program would initially experience an estimated cost savings of \$120,000 starting in fiscal year 2020-21. However, it is anticipated the Seed Advisory Board would recommend those cost savings be redirected to hiring additional Seed Services Program field staff to ensure continued local enforcement of the California Seed Law.

- 2) The remaining provisions of this bill are expected to have negligible state costs.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Background and Purpose.** Each year, local officials discover problems with state statutes affecting counties, cities and special districts, as well as the laws on land use planning and development. More than 100 public officials, trade groups, lobbyists and legislative staffers see each proposal before it goes into the committee's bill. Should any item in SB 1473 attract opposition, the committee will delete it.
- 2) **Findings and Declarations.** This year the bill contains a finding indicating, due to COVID-19 pandemic, while still adhering strictly to the consensus requirement, the bill contains provisions that are more substantive or less clearly within the jurisdiction of the committee than would otherwise be appropriate for the omnibus bill process in order to advance needed public policy in a safe and efficient manner. The finding also indicates the inclusion of items in the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2020 is not considered precedential in any manner.
- 3) **Proposed Amendments.** The author has proposed the following amendments to be voted on by this committee today. These amendments delete a controversial provision regarding the confidentiality of communications service provider information from the bill and make other clarifying and technical changes as follows:
  - a) On Page 12, Line 28, strike out "Article 2 (commencing with Section 11010)", strike out line 29, and insert:
    - a. *"this article"*
  - b) On Page 20, Line 24, after "report" restore the currently stricken language to read:

*An addendum to the final survey report shall be published to include a former assessor's written response to the findings and recommendations in the survey report that reviewed the former assessor's procedures and practices, if any, and the board's comments, if any.*
  - c) On Page 20, strike out lines 39 and 40, and on Page 21, strike out lines 1 through 4, inclusive.
  - d) Delete Sections 30 and 35 from the bill.