

Date of Hearing: August 3, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

SB 468 (Dodd) – As Amended August 1, 2021

Policy Committee:	Rules	Vote:	7 - 0
	Emergency Management		7 - 0

Urgency: No      State Mandated Local Program: No      Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill adds an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack to the list of conditions that may cause a state of emergency or local emergency.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

No state costs to the Office of Emergency Services.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

SB 468 simply adds an [EMP] attack to the list of conditions that are named in the Emergency Services Act (ESA) constituting a state of emergency or local emergency. By adding [EMP] attacks to the ESA, this bill will provide the Governor and local governments with a necessary tool to quickly respond.

2) **ESA.** The ESA gives the governor authority to proclaim a state of emergency in an area affected or likely to be affected when conditions of disaster or extreme peril exist, the governor is requested to do so upon request from a designated local government official, or the governor finds that local authority is inadequate to cope with the emergency. A local government may also issue a local emergency proclamation, which is a prerequisite for a state proclamation. Examples of conditions of disaster or extreme peril include air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, cyberterrorism, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, or an earthquake, amongst others. This bill adds an EMP attack to that list.

3) **EMP Attack.** An EMP attack is caused by a brief burst of electromagnetic energy. Extreme electromagnetic incidents caused by an intentional EMP attack or a naturally occurring geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) caused by severe space weather could damage significant portions of the state's critical infrastructure, including the electrical grid, communications equipment, water and wastewater systems, and transportation modes. On March 26, 2019, a federal executive order charged the Department of Homeland Security with coordinating national resilience, preparedness, and response from an EMP or GMD event.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081