

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 1413 (Niello)
As Amended May 16, 2024
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC), on or before February 1, 2027, and upon appropriation by the Legislature, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature assessing the near-term and long-term impacts of observing year-round standard time on energy demand and supply.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires the CEC, on or before February 1, 2027, to prepare and submit a report to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature assessing the near-term and long-term impacts of observing year-round standard time on energy demand and supply.
- 2) Requires the report to include, but not be limited to, the potential impacts on electricity reliability in the late summer and early fall.
- 3) Makes the operation of its provisions contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature for its purpose.
- 4) Repeals the section on February 1, 2029.

COMMENTS

In California, Daylight Saving Time (DST) is observed during the time of year when clocks "spring forward," between the second Sunday of March and first Sunday of November, consistent with federal law. Pacific Standard Time (PST) in California is observed during the time of year when clocks "fall back," between the first Sunday of November and second Sunday of March. DST is often referred to as "summer time" and PST is often referred to as "winter time."

Within the Legislature, many attempts have been made to do away with the biannual changing of the clocks, with some efforts advocating for year-long PST and others championing for year-long DST. States remain prohibited from establishing year-long DST without federal authorization; as such, year-long PST may be more achievable within the confines of California's authority. Contemporary arguments for permanent standard time (and permanent DST) are not related to energy and instead center on health and safety considerations. Previous studies by the CEC and the U.S. Department of Energy have found the effects of permanent DST on energy savings to be nominal. However, these studies are more than 10 years old, and did not consider the energy implications of PST. With California's increased reliance on intermittent renewable resources, particularly solar energy, it is unclear whether a move to permanent PST might challenge grid conditions since the sun would set earlier in the summer as a result of this change. This bill would require the CEC, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to assess the implications of moving to year-long PST on energy reliability.

According to the Author

"SB 1413 is a bipartisan, multistate effort to "ditch the switch" and end Daylight Saving Time (DST). There have been federal efforts to establish permanent DST but those have failed (Congressional action is needed for permanent DST). There is no act of Congress or federal permission needed to be successful in switching, however, to Permanent Standard Time (PST). This measure is a simple study bill to be sure that there are no major energy implications for California before we contemplate the greater policy decision of moving to PST."

Arguments in Support

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine writes, "The long, dark mornings caused by permanent daylight saving time would make it difficult to wake and commute to school and work during the winter. The safety of children waiting at the bus stop, walking, or driving to school would be jeopardized in the darkness... permanent standard time is the most efficient way to eliminate the twice-yearly change, while protecting public health and safety."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill would incur costs amounting to \$600,000 (Energy Resources Program Account (ERPA)) at the CEC to contract with an outside consultant to conduct the study required by this bill. However, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the ERPA is in a structural deficit, and the administration estimates that its balances will be exhausted by fiscal year 2027-28.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 33-1-6**

YES: Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Atkins, Becker, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, Menjivar, Min, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Portantino, Roth, Skinner, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Wiener, Wilk

NO: Rubio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Allen, Archuleta, Blakespear, Newman, Nguyen, Seyarto

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 15-0-1

YES: Petrie-Norris, Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Chen, Friedman, Hart, Holden, Joe Patterson, Reyes, Santiago, Schiavo, Ting, Wallis, Wood, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Jim Patterson

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2

YES: Wicks, Sanchez, Arambula, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Mike Fong, Grayson, Haney, Hart, Pellerin, Ta, Villapudua

ABS, ABST OR NV: Dixon, Jim Patterson

UPDATED

VERSION: May 16, 2024

CONSULTANT: Kathleen Chen / U. & E. / (916) 319-2083

FN: 0004017