

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1455 (Bryan)

As Amended September 5, 2025

2/3 vote. Urgency

SUMMARY

Requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) to adopt regulations to implement the Zone 0 defensible regulations in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ) in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA), and authorizes the Board to adopt those regulations as emergency regulations.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Clarify the Board's authority and mandate to adopt Zone 0 regulations in the LRA.
- 2) Require the state's guidance document on fuels management to be updated within one year of the Zone 0 regulations being adopted.
- 3) Authorize a local agency responsible for fire protection to adopt a local ordinance comparable to the Board's Zone 0 regulations in consideration of local variations in local fire hazards, geography, development, and other conditions.
- 4) Authorize the Board to adopt the Zone 0 regulations under emergency regulatory authority if the regulations are not adopted by the Governor's December 31, 2025, deadline under regular regulatory authority.
- 5) Add an urgency clause.

COMMENTS

AB 3074 (Friedman), Chapter 259, Statutes of 2020, required the Board to adopt regulations, by January 1, 2023, to create an ember-resistant zone. The Board has not yet promulgated regulations effectuating that defensible space requirement for Zone 0. Since AB 3074 was adopted, the Board received \$3.2 million one-time funds in the 2021-2022 budget; no additional funding has been provided to the Board for regulation development since then.

On February 6, Governor Newsom signed EO N-18-25 directing the Board to accelerate its work to adopt Zone 0 regulations. The EO requires the Board to post a pre-rulemaking draft regulation on its website and hold a public workshop to gather public input on its draft regulation 45 days from date of the EO, and requires the formal rulemaking to be completed by December 31, 2025.

According to the Author

The state is more than two years past the deadline for having regulations in place to protect homes from flying embers. That's two years too late. If these regulations had been in place, imagine the homes that could have been better protected or even saved during the LA fires last January. After the fires, the governor called on the Board of Forestry to promulgate those regulations by the end of this year. AB 1455 clarifies the Board's authority to adopt the regulations and includes a trigger to authorize the Board to adopt emergency regulations.

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved this bill pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, citing negligible state costs.

VOTES:**ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 12-0-2**

YES: Bryan, Connolly, Ellis, Flora, Garcia, Haney, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Hoover

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez, Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-1-6

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Castillo, Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, Lackey, Sanchez, Ta

UPDATED

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