

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1532 (Committee on Communications and Conveyance)

As Amended August 29, 2025

2/3 vote. Urgency

SUMMARY

This bill extends the requirement for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish and fund the transportation network company (TNC) Access for All (AFA) program until January 1, 2032. The bill also requires the CPUC to collect more granular information about CPUC Commissioner attendance at CPUC hearings. >

Senate Amendments

- 1) Strike the extension of the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program, which was extended in a budget trailer bill.
- 2) Strike the requirement that CPUC adopt rules governing Commissioner attendance at CPUC hearings.
- 3) Strike the requirement that a CPUC Commissioner appear at a legislative hearing at the request of the Chair of a Senate or Assembly Committee with jurisdiction over budget or policy matters concerning the CPUC.

COMMENTS

- 1) *Access for All Program.* The Access for All Program ("AFA") was developed to implement SB 1376 (Hill), Chapter 701, Statutes of 2018, which directed the CPUC to establish a program to increase the availability of on-demand transportation for persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users who need a wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV) on transportation network company (TNC) platforms. The program began implementation in the third quarter of 2019 and is designed to encourage growth in the availability of on-demand transportation that meets the mobility needs of persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users who need a WAV. This is achieved by collecting a per-trip fee on all transportation network company (TNC) trips that originate in California, which is then re-invested in WAV service. The requirement to establishment this program, including the authorization to collect the \$0.05 per completed TNC trip charge to fund the program, will expire as of January 1, 2026. An extension is necessary to continue this program.
- 2) *Oversight and Accountability for the CPUC.* This bill amends current reporting requirement by requiring the CPUC to collect more granular information about CPUC Commissioner attendance at CPUC hearings. The granular information would require additional information about attendance based on industry type, hearing type, and proceeding type. This proposal comes as a direct response to recent reports to the Legislature from the CPUC which appear to show that CPUC commissioners often miss hearings of their own agency and never preside over their own hearings. For example, in a 2024 "CPUC Report on Commissioner Presence During 2025 Hearings", the CPUC reported that commissioners were present at hearings less than 25% of the time and never presided at any hearing the entire year. While many of those hearings are procedural hearings, the existing reporting requirement does not require the granular level of reporting this bill would provide. With this more granular information the intent is that the public and Legislature will have more awareness about how

CPUC Commissioners spend their time across the multitude of industries and proceedings under their purview.

When this bill left the Assembly it included stronger requirements that would have required CPUC Commissioner attendance at legislative hearings and a requirement that the CPUC adopt rules about Commissioner attendance at CPUC hearings. Those provisions were removed in Senate policy and fiscal committee amendments, however the provision that remains will still provide greater insight into the topic of CPUC Commissioner attendance.

According to the Author

"The content of this bill covers a scope of issues directly pertaining to the jurisdiction and experience of the the Communications & Conveyance committee. Specifically, it extends the state's ability to fund a programs administered by the CPUC that provide critical assistance to disabled Californians. The bill also includes new accountability measures for the CPUC based on this committee's experience in engaging in oversight of the CPUC's programs during a committee oversight hearing, wherein the committee discovered concerning trends about CPUC commissioner attendance at hearings."

Arguments in Support

"The TNC Access for All Program has strong support across cities and disability advocates. Improved on-demand transportation access allows greater workforce participation and increased economic activity from the disability community. If the fund is not extended past the current January 1, 2026 sunset date, TNCs in California may not provide WAV service, putting greater strain on local transit agencies and risking the equal mobility access the disability community deserves."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, impacts to the AFA program would have absorbable state costs. Additionally, the Senate Appropriations Committee did not provide any cost estimate of the reporting requirements, but they would likely be absorbed into the existing requirement.

VOTES:

ASM COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE: 8-0-2

YES: Boerner, Ahrens, Bonta, Caloza, Garcia, Lowenthal, Rogers, Blanca Rubio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Castillo

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 17-0-1

YES: Petrie-Norris, Patterson, Boerner, Calderon, Chen, Davies, Fong, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Solache, Wallis, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-1-13

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

NO: DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Castillo, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Papan, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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