

Date of Hearing: March 25, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Juan Carrillo, Chair

AB 1622 (Blanca Rubio) – As Introduced January 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Electrified security fences

SUMMARY: Removes the sunset date of January 1, 2028, on provisions of law governing the installation of electrified security fences enacted pursuant to AB 2371, Chapter 235, Statutes of 2024.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines “electrified security fence” to mean any fence, other than an electrified fence as defined in Section 17151 of the Food and Agricultural Code, that meets the following requirements:
 - a) The electrified security fence is powered by an electrical energizer, driven by solar-charged batteries of no more than 12 volts of direct current, with both of the following output characteristics:
 - i) The impulse repetition rate does not exceed 1 hertz (hz).
 - ii) The impulse duration does not exceed 10 milliseconds, or 10/1000 of a second.
 - b) The electrified security fence is used to protect and secure manufacturing or industrial property, or property zoned under another designation, but legally authorized to be used for a commercial purpose that stores, parks, services, sells, or rents vehicles, vessels, equipment, materials, freight, or utility infrastructure within an outdoor lot or yard, provided that the secured area does not include any existing residential or hospitality uses.
- 2) Allows an owner of real property to install and operate an electrified security fence on their property, subject to all of the following:
 - a) The property is not located in a residential zone and falls within the description of property described in 1) b), above.
 - b) The electrified security fence meets the standards and specifications of the International Electrotechnical Commission for electric security fence energizers in “International Standard IEC 60335, Part 2-76:2018.”
 - c) The electrified security fence is identified by prominently placed warning signs that are legible from both sides of the fence. At a minimum, the warning signs shall meet all of the following criteria:
 - i) The warning signs are placed at each gate and access point, and at intervals along the electrified security fence not exceeding 30 feet.

- ii) The warning signs are adjacent to any other signs relating to chemical, radiological, or biological hazards.
 - iii) The warning signs are marked with a written warning or a commonly recognized symbol for shock, a written warning or a commonly recognized symbol to warn people with pacemakers, and a written warning or commonly recognized symbol about the danger of touching the electrified security fence in wet conditions.
 - d) The height of the electrified security fence does not exceed 10 feet or two feet higher than an existing nonelectrified perimeter fence or wall, whichever is greater. The electrified security fence shall be located behind a nonelectrified perimeter fence or wall that is not less than five feet in height.
 - e) The electrified security fence includes a device that enables first responders to deactivate the electrified security fence in response to an emergency, if utilized by a city, county, or city and county.
- 3) Allows the electrified security fence to interface with a monitored alarm device in a manner that enables the alarm system to transmit a signal intended to summon the business, a monitoring service, or both the business and a monitoring service, in response to an intrusion or burglary.
- 4) Prohibits an owner of real property not specified in 1) b), above from installing or operating an electrified security fence where a local ordinance prohibits the installation or operation of an electrified security fence. A local ordinance may prohibit the installation and operation of an electrified security fence that does not comply with 1) through 3), above. A local ordinance that prohibits or regulates only the installation or operation of an electrified fence as defined in Section 17151 of the Food and Agricultural Code shall not be construed to apply to an electrified security fence.
- 5) Provides that, for property specified in 1) b), above, and in compliance with 1) through 3), above, a city, county, or city and county ordinance, regulation, or code shall not prohibit the installation and operation of an electrified security fence, nor require a permit or approval that is in addition to an alarm system permit issued by the city, county, or city and county. A city, county, or city and county may require an administrative permit confirming the fence meets the requirements of the provisions outlined above if it is on a property abutting a property in residential use, or within 300 feet of a public park, childcare facility, recreation center, community center, or school facility.
- 6) Provides that nothing in the provisions outlined above shall be construed to alter the authority of a jurisdiction to adopt and enforce an ordinance relating to nonelectrified perimeter fences or walls as legally authorized, if applicable.
- 7) Provides that the provisions outlined above shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed. (Civil Code Section 835)

FISCAL EFFECT: None

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** Electrified security fences are used in industrial and commercial areas to protect property located within the perimeter of the fences, such as equipment yards or commercial storage facilities. The fences are designed to provide a physical and psychological deterrent to potential intruders and are must have visible warning signs about the danger of coming into contact with the electrified security fence.

The sale and use of electric fences is generally prohibited in California unless the electrical current is limited and regulated by an electrical controller that meets or exceeds specified standards. Electrified fences that comply with these standards should not ordinarily cause lasting physical harm to animals or people who contact one, because the length of electric shock delivered by the fence is very brief.

Until 2015, the installation and operation of electric fences was exclusively governed by provisions within the Food and Agriculture Code. This led to some confusion or hesitancy on the part of local governments when companies applied to install and operate such fences in commercial or industrial settings, causing permitting delays. In response, California enacted SB 582 (Hall), Chapter 273, Statutes of 2015. The resulting Civil Code Section 835 authorized property owners to install and operate electrified fences outside of residential settings, provided that the fences meet specified requirements and there is no local ordinance prohibiting the installation of such fences.

AB 358 (Flora), Chapter 148, Statutes of 2021, made additional changes. Among those, the bill allowed the installation and operation of electrified security fences on property that is commercial, manufacturing, or industrial property, as well as property zoned under another designation, but legally authorized for commercial, manufacturing, or industrial use. The bill also increased the permissible height of an electrified security fence from a maximum of ten feet to the greater of 10 feet or two feet higher than the accompanying perimeter fence and reduced the permissible height of the perimeter fence accompanying an electrified security fence from a minimum of six feet to a minimum of five feet.

AB 2371 (Juan Carrillo), Chapter 235, Statutes of 2024, made additional changes to this area of law. AB 2371 prohibited cities and counties from prohibiting the installation and operation of an electrified security fence on specified industrial, manufacturing, or specified commercial property, or from requiring a permit or approval for such fences, when the fence is compliant with the law's requirements for electrified security fences. AB 2371 also allowed a city or county to require an administrative permit confirming that the electrified security fence meets the statutory standards when the fence is on a property that abuts a property in residential use, or is within 300 feet of a public park, childcare facility, recreation center, community center, or school facility. AB 2371 also made various changes to the standards for such fences.

AB 2371 contained a sunset date of January 1, 2028.

- 2) **Bill Summary and Author's Statement.** This bill repeals the sunset date contained in AB 2371, thereby making the provisions of that bill permanent.

According to the author, “Prior to the enactment of AB 2371 (Carrillo and Flora, 2024), which was approved unanimously by the Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom on September 14, 2024 as an urgency bill, commercial property owners statewide had faced escalating incidences of trespass and criminal activity such as theft, vandalism and threats to employee health and safety, which, in some cases, resulted in the closure of businesses and loss of jobs. And for almost a decade prior to AB 2371, more than 1,000 installations of electrified security fence systems were permitted and safely securing commercial properties statewide without issue. However, in 2024 there were more than 400 businesses statewide, in permitting limbo for an average of 372 days, desperately seeking approval from their local governments to permit them to install this proven safe and effective technology to secure their property and protect their employees. This security technology was also being utilized by public agencies such as school districts and state public safety agencies to secure their assets from theft and vandalism.

“Since its passage, AB 2371 resolved the disparity and associated delays in the permitting of electrified security fence installations and, as a result, more than 800 additional businesses have benefited by being able to implement this security technology in average of 19 days. AB 1622 simply repeals the sunset date on a statute that achieves its goals without presenting any implementation difficulties.”

This bill is sponsored by AMAROK, LLC., Bay Area Council, and the Family Business Association of California.

- 3) **Previous Legislation.** AB 2371 (Juan Carrillo), Chapter 235, Statutes of 2024, prohibited, until January 1, 2028, cities and counties from prohibiting the installation and operation of an electrified security fence on specified industrial, manufacturing, or specified commercial property, or from requiring a permit or approval for such fences when the fence is compliant with specified requirements for electrified security fences, except that a city or county may require an administrative permit confirming that the electrified security fence meets statutory standards when the fence is on a property that abuts a property in residential use, or is within 300 feet of a public park, childcare facility, recreation center, community center, or school facility.

AB 358 (Flora), Chapter 148, Statutes of 2021, made a number of changes to state law regulating the installation and operation of electrified security fences.

SB 582 (Hall), Chapter 273, Statutes of 2015, authorized a property owner to install and operate an electrified fence on their property if the property is not in a residential zone, the fence meets specified requirements, and a local ordinance does not prohibit the installation of such a fence.

- 4) **Arguments in Support.** According to AMAROK, LLC., Bay Area Council, and the Family Business Association of California, the sponsors of this bill, “AB 1622 would repeal the January 1, 2028, sunset date clause put into law as part of the revisions to Civil Code Section 835 made by AB 2371 (Carrillo and Flora, 2024), which was enacted as an urgency bill on September 14, 2024. AB 2371 made modest but critical reforms to the local government permitting protocol governing electrified security fence alarm systems. These reforms have made a substantial difference for businesses statewide which store valuable assets outdoors

and are targets for criminal activity such as theft, vandalism, arson, and resultant threat to employee safety.

“Prior to the enactment of AB 2371, businesses confronted a disparate and unpredictable array of requirements and delays by local governments in obtaining a permit to install an electrified security fence alarm system, forcing businesses in numerous jurisdictions to wait up to five years for issuance of the permit. AB 2371 harmonized the criteria and permitting for local governments such that, as of January 31, 2026, more than 800 businesses have benefited under the updated law, enabling these businesses to install these security systems on average in 19 days.

“The implementation of AB 2371 has been highly successful, without issues or concerns by local governments. However, AB 2371 included a sunset clause of January 1, 2028. In light of the success of the permitting reforms made by AB 2371, AB 1622 would repeal that sunset date, thus providing businesses not only the certainty they need but also giving local governments the certainty they need in ensuring that the businesses that operate in their communities have the tools necessary to secure their employees and stay in business.”

5) **Arguments in Opposition.** None on file.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

AMAROK [SPONSOR]
 Bay Area Council [SPONSOR]
 Family Business Association of California [SPONSOR]
 Alfred Louis INC
 Anaheim Chamber of Commerce
 Arcadia Chair Company
 Bolthouse Fresh Foods
 Bragg Companies
 Brandt Ag Products
 Bravo Concrete Services INC
 Cal Fire Local 2881
 California Alarm Association
 California Chamber of Commerce
 California Fuels and Convenience Alliance
 California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
 California Manufacturers and Technology Association
 California Retailers Association
 California Trucking Association
 CFR CLASSIC LLC
 Cleansleeves.com
 Copart INC.
 Crystal Geyser Water Company
 David Knott INC
 E-recycling of California
 Electronic Security Association

Fleet Yards INC
Franco Logistics
Gachina Landscape Management
Gary Scelzi Motorsports
GDN Southwest LLC
Golden State Fasteners and Supply Company
Golden State Logistics
Green Trucking LLC
Keepsafe Storall
Lewis & Tibbits INC
National Federation of Independent Business
Ngroup Performance Partners
North Bakersfield Toyota
Ok Tire and Automotive Tire Pros
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Pomona Chamber of Commerce
Quantum Freight LLC
Regent Cold Storage
Republic Services
Sacramento Truck Center
Self Storage Association
Service West
Stotz Equipment Montclair
Sworx Bottling
The Greater West Covina Business Association
Titan Worldwide
Vestis
West Ventura County Business Alliance
WM (Waste Management)
Yolo Food Bank

Opposition

None on file

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