

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1699 (Rogers)

As Amended August 20, 2026

2/3 vote. Urgency

SUMMARY

Establishes the Good Fire Act, which indefinitely extends the Prescribed Fire Liability Program, and makes changes to the program and other relevant laws to advance the implementation of prescribed fire throughout the state.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Explicitly state that the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (Fund) shall support coverage for losses from prescribed fires and cultural burning on any lands within the state.
- 2) Require a state entity that has awarded grant funds for a project that includes the preparation for, or implementation of, a beneficial fire project to include as an allowable expense of the grant the payment of overtime or double rates of pay to employees or contractors who prepare for or implement the beneficial fire project when such expenses are necessary for the implementation of the beneficial fire project.
- 3) Require grantees who receive advance payments to file an accountability report within 6 months from the date of receiving the funds and every 6 months thereafter.
- 4) Require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the claim process and propose statutory changes related to the Fund.
- 5) Require a burn plan to be submitted to the claims fund portal before ignition.
- 6) Double-joint the bill with AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris) to prevent chaptering out amendments to Public Resources Code 4799.05.
- 7) Establishes this as an urgency statute.

COMMENTS

Last year, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order (EO) N-35-25 expressing concern that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations would prevent, hinder, or delay the use of beneficial fire to limit dangerous wildfire conditions that threaten life and property. This bill is largely an effort to codify the Governor's EO.

According to the Author

For generations, California Tribes have stewarded the landscape with fire. This community wide effort created a safer and healthier ecosystem for all. Tragically, one of the first laws ever passed by this Legislature outlawed this practice. We restricted cultural burning practices and ignored that wisdom. We eventually set up a fire response system that extinguished all flames, even when they were desperately needed to clear overly dense vegetation and support fire dependent plants. AB 1699 is about righting that historic wrong. The use of beneficial fire, a prescribed fire, or a controlled burn are all examples of "Good Fire". We know all too well about the opposite, catastrophic wildfires that burn out of control. We need much more Good Fire to address that

very real threat that far too many of us have learned to live with. We need to follow the leadership of our Tribes and build up the systems to use more Good Fire.

Arguments in Support

More than 100 organizations write that expanding prescribed fire protects Californians from catastrophic wildfire while restoring our landscapes. The Good Fire Act provides practical solutions to credential bottlenecks, liability concerns, and operational restrictions that currently limit this essential work.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, by removing the sunset on the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund and significantly expanding the universe of eligible entities, this bill would create ongoing General Fund cost pressures of an unknown amount, possibly in the low to tens of millions of dollars annually. Further, by prohibiting a state entity that awards grant funds for beneficial fire projects from restricting those funds for use as payment for overtime or double rates of pay, this bill potentially creates cost pressures on various grant funds. CAL FIRE does not anticipate a fiscal impact from this bill.

VOTES:

ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 14-0-0

YES: Bryan, Ellis, Alanis, Connolly, Garcia, Haney, Hoover, Kalra, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 5-0-2

YES: Ransom, Bains, Bennett, Calderon, DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hadwick, Arambula

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0-4

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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