

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1711
Author: Connolly (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, McNerney, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Fairs: funding

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill diverts certain unallocated and other specified moneys deposited into the Fair and Exposition Fund (FEF) for fair projects involving public health, fire and life safety, and emergency services improvement projects at fairs, California Code of Regulations compliance projects, and maintenance projects at fairgrounds, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Fairs and Expositions through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to enrich the lives of California's citizens by ensuring the Network of California's Fairs continue to exist as viable, recreational, and cultural facilities of general public interest.
- 2) Establishes FEF for the support of the state's fairs.

- 3) Appropriates certain unallocated moneys and other specified moneys deposited into the FEF, a continuously appropriated fund, to the CDFA for capital outlay to California fairs for, among other things, fair projects involving public health and safety, fair projects involving major and deferred maintenance, and fair projects necessary due to any emergency, as specified.

This bill:

- 1) States any unallocated balance revenue deposited into the Fair and Exposition Fund pursuant to Section 19614 of the Business and Professions Code, and funding appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise designated for California fairs pursuant to this chapter or any other law is hereby appropriated without regard to fiscal years for allocation by the secretary for capital outlay to California fairs for fair projects involving public health, fire and life safety, and emergency services improvement projects at fairs, California Code of Regulations compliance projects, and maintenance projects at fairgrounds, for projects that are required by physical changes to the fair site, for projects that are required to protect the fair property or installation, such as fencing and flood protection, and for the acquisition or improvement of any property or facility that will serve to enhance the operation of the fair.
- 2) States except as provided in subdivision (e), moneys deposited into the Fair and Exposition Fund after November 1 of each year shall be allocated for purposes of subdivisions (a) and (b) within 90 days of the receipt of the moneys.
- 3) States except as provided in subdivision (e), all available moneys in the Fair and Exposition Fund shall be allocated to the network of California fairs pursuant to an approved expenditure plan no later than December 31 of each calendar year.
- 4) States beginning January 1, 2027 and every year thereafter, from the total moneys being deposited into the Fair and Exposition Fund and subject to allocation pursuant to subdivision (a), including moneys appropriated pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 3203, a reasonable amount may be retained from year to year as a prudent reserve for contingencies. The remainder of the moneys shall be allocated annually as specified in subdivision (d).

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations: “The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) would likely incur minor and absorbable costs to implement the provisions of the bill.”

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Fairs Alliance
California Farm Bureau Federation
Rural County Representatives of California
Western Fairs Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the author:

"California's fairs play a vital role in every community by serving as emergency and evacuation sites during natural disasters. Unfortunately, fairgrounds are experiencing a growing backlog of deferred maintenance that presents a significant public safety threat to California. AB 1711 will ensure that the revenue generated by fairs and approved in the State Budget is allocated by a date certain so fairgrounds can appropriately plan to utilize those funds."

The Western Affairs Association and the California Fairs Alliance, sponsors of the legislation, write in support stating California's 76 state-designated fairs play a vital role in their communities and are aging and in desperate need of modernization. Their letter states:

"To date, funds generated through this mechanism have generated over \$20 million, however, because of bureaucratic hurdles, these funds have not been released. AB 1711 ensures that the sales tax revenue intended to assist California's fairs is distributed expeditiously for fairground improvement. These funds will allow California fairs to address the growing backlog of deferred maintenance projects and begin fairground improvement projects to address public health and safety, infrastructure, and emergency management.

For these reasons, we support AB 1711 and appreciate Assemblymember Connolly's ongoing efforts to help California's fair network be as successful as possible."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26

AYES: 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, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
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