

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1711 (Connolly)

As Amended August 13, 2026

2/3 vote

SUMMARY

Would divert certain unallocated and other specified monies 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.

Senate Amendments

Change the amount of the FEF that may be retained every year from, "not more than 5%" to a "reasonable amount". The amendments also stipulate that any funds received after November 1 must be allocated (except any reserve) within 90 days of receipt and that all funds must be allocated (except any reserve) by December 31 of each year.

COMMENTS

Changing the reserve requirement will give the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Network of Fairs more flexibility in the reserve. Additionally, the amendments create a predictable schedule for the distribution of funds.

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."

Arguments in Support

The Western Fairs Association and the California Fair Alliance wrote a joint letter in which they stated, "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."

Arguments in Opposition

None on File.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the costs to CDFA would likely be minor and absorbable.

VOTES:**ASM AGRICULTURE: 8-0-0**

YES: Soria, Hadwick, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Connolly, Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, Ransom

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: 74-0-6

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, 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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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