



The lack of guidance, best practices, and educational materials for residential and commercial properties that utilize lithium-ion battery storage is accelerating the risk of dangers associated with these batteries, a risk that will increase as the state marches towards its green energy goals...This bill takes a step that is necessary if we want to proactively prevent lithium-ion battery fires in our homes and businesses while encouraging a green future.

This bill is supported by the California Electric Transportation Coalition and local government entities.

- 2) **Lithium-ion Battery Fires.** One of the primary risks related to lithium-ion batteries, which are increasingly common in portable electronic devices and electrified transportation, is thermal runaway. Thermal runaway is a phenomenon where the lithium-ion cell enters an uncontrollable, self-heating state, which can result in extremely high temperatures, violent cell venting, smoke, and fire. A lithium-ion battery fire can burn for hours, or even days, until all the flammable chemicals in the battery are consumed by the combustion reaction.

On January 16, 2025, a fire started at the Vistra Battery Energy Storage Facility and engulfed the battery energy storage building at the Moss Landing Power Plant. The thermal runaway event and fire burned for days, destroying tens of thousands of lithium-ion batteries and resulting in shelter-in-place and evacuation orders for the neighboring community. This bill requires the SFM to convene a working group to identify and recommend solutions for safety issues not addressed in the most recent Code related to lithium batteries and associated charging infrastructure near buildings.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 588 (Patel) is substantively identical to this bill. AB 588 was held on this committee's suspense file.

AB 841 (Patel), Chapter 382, Statutes of 2025, required the OSFM to develop a working group to make recommendations regarding personal protective equipment used when responding to a lithium-ion battery fire.

AB 1285 (Committee on Emergency Management), Chapter 637, Statutes of 2025, required the SFM to develop fire prevention, response, and recovery measures for utility-grade lithium-ion battery storage facilities.

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