

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

Lisa Calderon, Chair

AB 2471 (Committee on Emergency Management) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission

SUMMARY: Adds representatives of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), California Department of Insurance (CDI), and Strategic Growth Council to the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (Commission). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Increases the overall number of the Commission from 15 to 17 but reduces the number of members appointed by the Governor from 10 to 9.
- 2) Requires at least 9 members to constitute a quorum, an increase of 1 member.
- 3) Authorizes 1 of the Governor’s appointees to represent investor-owned utilities.
- 4) Allows the Commission to coordinate with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Office of Emergency Services to:
 - a) Make policy recommendations to the Legislature to mitigate the risks of both of the following
 - i) Fires following major earthquakes in urban areas including, but not limited to, alternative water suppression systems; and,
 - ii) Disruptions to fuel, gas, electrical, water, transportation, communications, and other lifeline infrastructure systems due to major earthquakes.
- 5) Makes other technical and clarifying changes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides for the regulation of insurers, agents and brokers, and other insurance-like organizations by the Insurance Commissioner, and imposes a broad range of financial solvency, licensing, and market behavior requirements, as set forth in the Insurance Code.
- 2) Establishes the “Safer from Wildfires” Framework. (Section 2644.9 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations)
- 3) Establishes within the Office of Emergency Services (OES), the Commission that consists of 15 members, 10 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and includes representatives from professional fields, as specified. (Government Code, Section 8589.71)
- 4) Requires that one member shall be a representative from the OES, one member of the Commission shall be a representative from the Division of the State Architect in the Department of General Services, and one member shall be a representative from the California Building Standards Commission. (Government Code, Section 8589.71)

- 5) Requires the above representatives to annually update the Commission on their seismic safety activities, as specified. (Government Code, Section 8589.71)
- 6) Requires 10 members that represent the fields of structural engineering, planning, fire protection, public utilities, insurance, social services, emergency services, and other local government areas that serve the public interest. (Government Code, Section 8589.71).
- 7) Establishes that each member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of four years. (Government Code, Section 8589.71)
- 8) Requires that at least eight members shall constitute a quorum. (Government Code, Section 8589.72)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose of the bill:* According to the author, “This bill reaffirms California’s commitment to seismic safety by requiring representatives from the State Fire Marshal, Department of Insurance, and Strategic Growth Council to be part of the Seismic Safety Commission. Restructuring the Commission and requiring coordination between key entities responsible for fire safety, insurance risk, and statewide planning strengthens the technical capacity of the Commission.”
- 2) *The Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (Commission):* This Commission was established in 1975 by the Seismic Safety Act and provides a coordinated framework for establishing consistent earthquake policies, advises the Governor, the Legislature, local governments, and the public, and tracks progress toward improving seismic safety through annual publications. The Commission is included within the Office of Emergency Services and currently consists of 15 members, 10 of whom are appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and 3 members who are representatives of the specified state agencies.

This measure specifically requires a representative from CDI to the Commission which would ensure policies recommended by the Commission reflect the current challenges California insurers and policyholders face.

Recent legislation has required more coordination among specified departments in hopes of sharing expertise and knowledge as California grapples with bigger and more frequent natural disasters.

- 3) *Previous legislation:* AB 1531 (Committee on Emergency Management, Chapter 204, Statutes of 2025) This measure required CDI to be added to the California Wildfire Mitigation Program Board on or before July 1, 2026.
- 4) *Double-referral:* This measure passed out of the Assembly Emergency Management Committee, recommended consent, with a 6-0 vote.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)

Opposition

None on file.

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