

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING  
AB 2471 (Committee on Emergency Management)  
As Introduced February 20, 2026  
Majority vote

## SUMMARY

This bill would add representatives of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Department of Insurance (CDI), and Strategic Growth Council to the Seismic Safety Commission, and reduce the number of members appointed by the Governor by one. The bill would additionally require the Commission, to make policy recommendations to the Legislature, as specified.

### Major Provisions

- 1) Reduces Governor appointees subject to confirmation by the Senate from 10 to 9.
- 2) Requires members of the Safety Seismic Commission to now also include the following:
  - a) A representative of the State Fire Marshal
  - b) A representative of the Department of Insurance
  - c) A representative of the Strategic Growth Council
- 3) Requires the Safety Seismic Commission to, in addition to the existing statutorily required agencies, work with the OSFM, CDI, and Strategic Growth Council to identify key activities and responsibilities related to seismic safety and develop a schedule to provide periodic updates to the commission on their activities.
- 4) Requires at least nine members to constitute a quorum, an increase of 1 member.
- 5) Authorizes appointed members to represent investor-owned utilities.
- 6) Authorizes, until 2030, the Commission to make policy recommendations to the legislature to mitigate the following risks:
  - a) Fires following major earthquakes in urban areas including, but not limited to, alternative water suppression systems.
  - b) Disruptions to fuel, gas, electrical, water, transportation, communications, and other lifeline infrastructure systems due to major earthquakes.
- 7) Removes the requirement for Commission to provide their annual report, required until 2030, to the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization and instead requires the report to now be provided to the Senate Committee on Emergency Management, in addition to existing entities, as specified.
- 8) Requires the annual report to include policy recommendations, as specified.

## COMMENTS

*Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (SSC):* The Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) was established in 1975 by the Seismic Safety Act. The SSC provides a coordinated framework for establishing consistent earthquake policies, advises the Governor, the Legislature, local governments, and the public, and tracks the state's progress toward improving seismic safety through annual publications. The SSC works with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the private sector, on a variety of activities that support the State's earthquake preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts. Currently, there are 15 commissioners who provide policy guidance, expertise, and perspectives from the private sector, academia, and local and state government.

*Current SSC Membership:* Under current statute, 10 of the 15 members of the Seismic Safety Commission must be Gubernatorial appointments. Currently the Commission has representatives from the following areas: Local Government, the California Building Standards Commission, the California Division of State Architect, public utilities, emergency services, structural engineering, the State Assembly, Cal OES, and Fire Protection. Positions representing the fields of insurance, planning, and social services are currently vacant.

*Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM):* The OSFM provides support through a wide variety of fire safety responsibilities including regulating buildings in which people live, congregate, or are confined; providing statewide direction for fire prevention within wildland areas; and developing and reviewing regulations and building standards. This bill requires a representative from the OSFM be added to the SSC, which may increase the level in which fire safety responsibilities are considered in reports, conclusions, and policy recommendations submitted to the Legislature.

*California Department of Insurance (CDI):* Including CDI may further support the SSC's seismic safety advisory role and technical knowledge of statewide insurance conditions on earthquake risk and formalize a channel for coordination with the state's insurance oversight. As CDI focuses on consumer protection laws, having a CDI representative may ensure policies recommended by the Commission reflect the current challenges California insurers and consumers face.

*Strategic Growth Council:* The Council is comprised of the Secretaries of agencies across California covering a wide breadth of topics, regulatory experience, and guidance. Requiring a member from the Council on the SSC may ensure actions, conclusions, and policy recommendations made by the Commission would be in concert with the Council's sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life strategies.

### **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.

### **Arguments in Support**

The San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) write in support, "as an organization committed to advancing resilience, effective governance, and evidence-based policy, SPUR recognizes the critical role that clear institutional structures and interagency

coordination play in protecting communities. AB 2471 helps ensure that the state's seismic safety leadership remains responsive to today's risks and better aligned with evolving emergency management needs by adding representatives from the State Fire Marshal, Department of Insurance, and the Strategic Growth Council."

**Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

- 1) Absorbable costs to the SCC to accommodate membership revisions and undertake the various additional reporting requirements.
- 2) Minor and absorbable costs to CAL FIRE and SGC to work with the SCC on reporting provisions. CDI reports such costs to be \$6,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27, \$56,000 in FY 2027-28, and \$12,000 in FY 2028-29 and annually thereafter.

**VOTES****ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 6-0-1**

**YES:** Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bennett, DeMaio, Ransom

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Bains

**ASM INSURANCE: 17-0-0**

**YES:** Calderon, Wallis, Addis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Berman, Chen, Ellis, Gipson, Hadwick, Harabedian, Krell, Nguyen, Ortega, Petrie-Norris, Michelle Rodriguez, Valencia

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0**

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

**UPDATED**

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