

CONSENT

Bill No: AB 2588
Author: Hadwick (R) and Ransom (D), et al.
Amended: 6/3/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/16/26

AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, McNerney, Padilla

NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: District agricultural associations: board of directors: vacancies

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill would, if the Governor has not filled a vacancy on a Fair board within 90 days and the board of directors (BOD) has insufficient membership to establish a quorum, allow the BOD to temporarily appoint a director to fill the vacancy and to establish a quorum, as provided. Furthermore, this bill would authorize the Governor to appoint a different director to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term who would replace the temporary director on the board of directors, as specified.

ANALYSIS: Existing law:

- 1) Divides the state into agricultural districts and provides for the management of these districts by district agricultural associations. (Food and Agriculture code (FAC) § 3951).
- 2) Requires the officers of the association to consist of a BOD of 9 members, establishes a 4-year term of office for the directors, and requires the directors to be appointed by the Governor, as specified (FAC § 3959-3964).

This bill:

- 1) States if the Governor has not filled a vacancy on the board of directors within 90 days and the board of directors has insufficient membership to establish a quorum, the board of directors may temporarily appoint a director to fill the vacancy and to establish a quorum, consistent with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). (FAC § 3959).

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/29/26)

California Fairs Alliance

Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

Shasta County Board of Supervisors

Western Fairs Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/29/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

“California’s fairs are important cultural and economic institutions which support agricultural education, local businesses, and community events throughout the state. On the other hand, many fairgrounds also function as critical infrastructure during emergencies--providing staging areas for disaster response and as evacuation centers during crises, such as wildfires. Unfortunately, prolonged delays to filling vacancies on fair boards have left some boards unable to achieve the quorum required to conduct business under state law. When a board cannot meet quorum, it cannot take the actions necessary to operate a fair. Assembly Bill 2588 provides a limited and practical solution by allowing a fair board to temporarily appoint a director when a vacancy has remained unfilled for 90 days and the board cannot otherwise reach quorum. These

temporary appointments must meet existing eligibility requirements and may be replaced immediately when the Governor makes an official appointment. This measure ensures that fairs can continue serving their communities while preserving the Governor’s authority over permanent appointments.”

The California Fairs Alliance wrote in support of the bill stating, in part:

“California is home to 54 state-designated fairs, operated through District Agricultural Associations (DAAs). These fairs play a vital role in their communities by providing agricultural education, hosting cultural events, supporting local economies and serving as critical sites for emergency response and disaster preparedness. DAA boards are made up of nine directors; five directors are needed for votes to be taken for official actions and to approve financial investments. Unfortunately, there are many DAAs lacking a quorum. AB 2588 will ensure these fairs have the necessary quorum to conduct business and serve their local communities.

DAA directors serve four-year terms and are often small business owners, educators, farmers, ranchers, or civic leaders. They ensure the fair serves the interests of the local community and that necessary investments are made to guarantee the fairgrounds are safe gathering places for all Californians.

For these reasons, we support AB 2588 and appreciate your ongoing efforts to help California’s Fair Network. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Berman, Bonta, Dixon, Flora, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

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