
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 652
Author: Alvarez (D)
Amended: 7/17/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/2/25
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/16/25
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Cabaldon, Laird, Seyarto, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-2, 4/21/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: San Diego County Air Pollution Control District: governing board:
alternate members

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes a number of operational changes to the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) board, including removing the requirement be the supervisor currently serving on the California Air Resources Board (CARB), authorizing the designation of alternate board members, and authorizes alternates to vote and receive per diem compensation and expenses.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides the CARB with primary responsibility for control of mobile source air pollution and provides that local air districts have primary responsibility for controlling air pollution from all sources, other than emissions from mobile sources, and establishes certain powers, duties, and requirements for those districts. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 39500, et seq. and § 40000, et seq.)

- 2) Creates certain air districts, including districts that cover a single county, as well as unified and regional districts that cover multiple counties. (HSC § 40000, et seq.)
- 3) Provides, for a single county district, except for San Diego that the county board of supervisors is ex officio of the county district board. Includes specified exceptions whereby other county district governing boards must include city council members or mayors. However, these requirements for city representation do not apply to “rural” county districts (i.e., where population of the incorporated area of the county is 35 percent or less of the total county population). (HSC § 40100, et seq.)
- 4) Designates, for multi-county districts, a variety of different governing board appointment schemes, including county and city officials, public members, and appointment by the Governor, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The governing boards of the multi-county districts are typically larger, with as many as 24 board members, and all include city representation, including some with a majority of city representatives. (HSC § 40150, et seq.)
- 5) Provides, for the SDCAPCD an 11-member board consisting of two county supervisors, six council members or mayors from specified cities, and three public members. Requires that one of the two supervisors be the supervisor currently serving on the CARB. (HSC § 40100.6)

This bill:

- 1) Repeals the requirement that one of the two supervisors serving on the SDAPCD board be the supervisor currently serving on CARB.
- 2) Provides for two-year, rather than four-year, terms for two city members (to be selected randomly) and two specified public members.
- 3) Authorizes the designation of alternate board members, provided the alternate meets the same qualifications as the regular member, and authorizes alternates to vote and receive per diem compensation and expenses.

Background

San Diego Air Pollution Control District. There are 35 air districts covering California’s 58 counties. Of the 21 single county districts, eight have boards with city representation and 13 have boards that are only county supervisors. The other

20 single county districts are primarily rural. San Diego's county-only air district board is an anomaly.

San Diego has the largest population by far of any single-county air district. San Diego County is second only to Los Angeles County in population, with approximately 3.3 million residents, approximately 1.4 million of whom live in the City of San Diego.

In 2019, AB 423 (Gloria, Chapter 744, Statutes of 2019) restructured the SDAPCD board, which previously was governed by the five San Diego County Supervisors, to be governed by an 11-member board consisting of two county supervisors, six council members or mayors from specified cities, and three public members.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, "AB 652, modernizes the governance of the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD), positioning it to effectively tackle contemporary environmental, equity, and operational challenges. This bill enhances the board's capacity to protect public health and air quality by introducing alternate members to expedite decision-making, updating compensation to attract qualified experts, and mandating collaboration with military stakeholders to balance environmental and national security priorities. By ensuring that public members possess expertise in health impacts, environmental justice, and air pollution science, AB 652 amplifies the voices of vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by pollution. These changes are vital for an efficient, inclusive, and transparent board that responds to the unique needs of a region rich in military installations and confronted with poor air quality. AB 652 is not merely about achieving cleaner air; it is about guaranteeing that every San Diegan, has a seat at the decision-making table. This bill enhances San Diego's capacity to address air pollution in an equitable and efficient manner-ultimately protecting vulnerable communities, supporting military collaborations, and furthering California's leadership in climate action."

How is this going to affect the air? As the local air district, SDAPCD has many responsibilities to protect public health and the environment by regulating stationary sources of air pollution, monitoring air quality, and developing strategies to reduce emissions. The actions taken towards these ends are decided upon by SDAPCD board, who must vote upon new rules, among other things. This bill facilitates the operations of the SDAPCD board by staggering some terms, providing for alternates when an appointment member is absent or disqualified, and allowing more flexibility in who may serve in certain positions vis-à-vis

serving on the CARB board.

To the extent these changes enable the SDAPCD to assess local air quality challenges and promulgate solutions, this bill would be expected to lead to modest improvements in the ability of the air district to complete its work.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/15/25)

City of San Diego

County of San Diego Fourth District Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe

Environmental Health Coalition

Military Services in California

The Office of San Diego County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/15/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-2, 4/21/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Hoover

NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Papan, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Sharp-Collins, Ta, Tangipa

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