

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 70 (Aguiar-Curry)

As Amended September 5, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Defines pyrolysis as the thermal decomposition of material at elevated temperatures in the absence or near absence of oxygen. Requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recover (CalRecycle) to include pipeline biomethane converted from organic waste as eligible for procurement credit by local jurisdictions by January 1, 2027.

**Senate Amendments**

Address chaptering concerns with AB 786 (Solache).

**COMMENTS**

Organic material accounts for more than a third of California's disposed waste stream. As this material decomposes in the state's landfills, it generates significant quantities of methane. Methane is a powerful short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) that is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timescale. According to CalRecycle, landfills emit approximately 20% of the state's total methane emissions.

SB 1383 (Lara), Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016, requires ARB to approve and implement a comprehensive SLCP strategy to achieve, by 2030, the following reductions from 2013 levels: a 40% reduction in methane, a 40% reduction in hydrofluorocarbon gases, and a 50% reduction in anthropogenic black carbon. In order to accomplish these goals, the law specifies that the methane emission reduction goals include the following targets to reduce the landfill disposal of organic waste, including food: 50% from the 2014 level by 2020 and 75% from the 2014 level by 2025. The law also requires that, by 2025, 20% of edible food that would otherwise be sent to landfills be redirected to feed people.

To achieve the aforementioned targets, California's waste management infrastructure will need to process and recycle much higher quantities of organic materials, involving significant investments in additional processing infrastructure. To ensure there are adequate markets for the state's increasing quantities of products made from organic waste, like mulch, compost, and digestate, CalRecycle has established procurement requirements for local jurisdictions. The procurement targets are based on the average amount of organic waste generated by Californians annually, multiplied by the population of a jurisdiction. Jurisdictions may meet the target by procuring, giving away, or arranging for the use of the material through contracts with direct service providers. Eligible materials include compost, mulch, biomass electricity, or renewable gas, as specified.

This bill defines pyrolysis as the thermal decomposition of organic material at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen and expands markets for pipeline biomethane. The author and sponsors of this bill indicate that establishing a definition will give clarity to regulatory agencies regarding pyrolysis technologies; however, it also restricts their ability to interpret the term as technologies advance or change, or tailor the definition for use in specific programs. Further, this bill requires CalRecycle to revise the state's organic materials procurement

regulations to include procurement of pipeline biomethane converted exclusively from diverted organic waste.

### **According to the Author**

SB 1383 required communities to divert organic waste from landfills because organic waste contributes almost 90% of California's methane emissions, but the state has fallen behind on meeting these goals and organic waste diversion projects have faced many obstacles in the permitting process. AB 70 aims to accelerate progress in meeting the state's methane reduction requirements by providing more certainty to projects that divert organic waste from landfills.

### **Arguments in Support**

A coalition of supporters state, "AB 70 would enact sensible, cost-effective measures to accelerate California's progress in reducing methane emissions and producing beneficial products in place of landfilling organic waste."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee "CalRecycle estimates ongoing costs of approximately \$306,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) and two new positions to facilitate rulemaking, support regulation development, prepare the appropriate conversion factors, and update technical assistance tools and resources."

## **VOTES:**

### **ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 13-0-1**

**YES:** Bryan, Alanis, Connolly, Davies, Flora, Garcia, Haney, Sanchez, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Zbur

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Wicks

### **ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4**

**YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

### **ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0-0**

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

**UPDATED**

VERSION: September 5, 2025

CONSULTANT: Elizabeth MacMillan / NAT. RES. / (916) 319-2092

FN: 0001836