
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 716 (Carrillo) - Fire safety standards: hydrogen facilities

Version: July 14, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: G.O. 12 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 716 requires the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to appoint a hydrogen fire expert to answer questions and provide clarification on the implementation of hydrogen production, storage, and distribution facilities, and additionally requires the SFM to provide ongoing training to local fire departments and building inspectors to ensure that hydrogen-related safety protocols are understood and enforced statewide.

Fiscal Impact: The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) reports costs of approximately \$324,000 in year one, \$342,000 in year two, and \$321,000 annually ongoing for an additional staff to serve as the State's hydrogen fire expert (General Fund). Other costs include travel expenses and equipment, as well as administrative support for the appointed hydrogen fire expert.

Background: The SFM supports the mission of CAL FIRE by focusing on fire prevention. The SFM provides support through a wide variety of fire safety responsibilities including:

- Regulating buildings in which people live, congregate, or are confined.
- Controlling substances and products which may, in and of themselves, or by their misuse, cause injuries, death, and destruction by fire.
- Providing statewide direction for fire prevention within wildland areas.
- Regulating hazardous liquid pipelines.
- Developing and reviewing regulations and building standards.
- Providing training and education in fire protection methods and responsibilities.

These achievements are accomplished through several major program elements including engineering, education, enforcement, and support from the State Board of Fire Services.

Proposed Law:

- Requires the SFM to appoint a hydrogen fire expert to answer questions and provide clarification on the implementation of hydrogen production, storage, and distribution facilities to ensure that hydrogen facilities comply with the most up-to-date fire safety standards.
- Requires the SFM to provide ongoing training to local fire departments and building inspectors to ensure that hydrogen-related safety protocols are understood and enforced statewide.

Related Legislation: AB 881 (Petrie-Norris, 2025) requires the SFM to adopt regulations to regulate the transportation of carbon dioxide in a pipeline, including certain specified safety standards that, at a minimum, meet those proposed by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration.

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