

Date of Hearing: January 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND
HOUSEHOLD IMPACT

José Luis Solache, Jr., Chair

AB 72 (Jackson) – As Amended January 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone: County of Riverside

SUMMARY: Creates an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone in Riverside County to expand access to EV manufacturing jobs and education for lower-income communities, administered by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. It would authorize partnerships for training and investment programs and provide state reimbursement for any mandated local costs.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- A. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, establish an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) for the County of Riverside, administered by the California Competes Tax Credit Committee, for the purpose of creating programs to make electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education more accessible to lower income communities.
- B. Requires the County of Riverside to assist in determining the geographical boundaries of the EVEOZ. By imposing additional duties on local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
- C. Authorizes the committee to partner with educational institutions, electric vehicle manufacturing businesses, and local and national financial intuitions to develop EVEOZ education, training, and investment programs, as specified.
- D. Makes legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the County of Riverside.
- E. Provides that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made.
- F. Establishing an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) in the County of Riverside would empower the people with economic and engineering skills, help make the transition to zero-emission vehicles more seamless and would serve as a model for the establishment of future EVEOZs across the state.

EXISTING LAW:

- A. The California Clean Energy Jobs Act expresses a goal of creating good-paying energy efficiency and clean energy jobs in California.
- B. Establishes in state government the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, under the supervision of the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, which consists of the Office of the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development and the California Workforce Development Board, among others.

C. Creates the position of Deputy Secretary for Climate within the agency, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, for the purpose of assisting in the oversight of California's workforce transition to a sustainable and equitable carbon neutral economy.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown but potentially added costs to educational institutions and GO-BIZ to provide certain credits to businesses.

COMMENTS:

It is the intent of the Legislature that, as California advances toward the goal established in Executive Order No. N-79-20-requiring 100 percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks to be zero-emission by 2035, the economic benefits associated with the transition to a zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) economy are broadly shared. This includes ensuring that lower-income and historically underserved communities have meaningful access to employment, training, and investment opportunities generated by electric vehicle manufacturing and related supply-chain activities.

AB 72 builds upon this statewide policy objective by recognizing that California's climate and clean transportation goals are inextricably linked to workforce development, regional economic growth, and equitable access to high-quality jobs.

This bill was previously introduced in session year 2023-2024 as AB 2448. The bill passed the assembly floor with a 75-4 vote. It was vetoed by Governor due to the significant fiscal implication that was not included in the budget.

Author Statement: "This bill is crucial for Riverside County and California as it establishes an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone, aiming to enhance accessibility to electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education in underserved communities. By partnering with educational institutions and businesses, this bill not only fosters economic growth but also promotes sustainable practices, making it vital for the state's future development and environmental goals."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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