

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

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

Policy Committee: Economic Development, Growth, and Vote: 8 - 0
Household Impact

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes, upon an appropriation, an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) for the County of Riverside to increase electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education opportunities for lower income communities, administered by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA). The bill also requires the LWDA to collaborate with Riverside County to determine the geographical boundaries of the EVEOZ.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time General Fund costs of \$5.8 million, and ongoing costs of \$1.2 million, for the LWDA implement and administer the Riverside County EVEOZ.
- 2) By requiring Riverside County to assist LWDA in determining the geographical boundaries of the EVEOZ, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent, the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs. However, costs to Riverside County resulting from the bill would likely be minor.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author’s office, this bill aims “to enhance accessibility to electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education in underserved communities” by expanding access to electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing jobs and education for lower-income communities. Pursuant to Executive Order No. N-79-20, 100% of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks must be zero-emission by 2035. The executive order mentions several times the positive impacts of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, including disproportionate harms fossil fuel use imposes on low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The bill requires the EVEOZ to partner with educational institutions, EV manufacturing business, and local and national financial institutions to develop training, education, investment, and incentive programs. Therefore, by helping increase availability of EV manufacturing education and training within the Riverside County region, this bill may help achieve the executive order’s statewide 100% zero-emission cars and trucks policy goal.

- 2) **Prior Legislation.** AB 2448 (Jackson), of the 2023-24 legislative session, was identical to this bill and was vetoed by Governor, who asserted the bill entailed significant fiscal implications not included in the budget.

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