

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 72 (Jackson)
As Amended January 5, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill establishes an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone in Riverside County to expand EV manufacturing jobs and education for lower-income communities. Administered by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, it authorizes partnerships for training and investment programs, requires coordination with Riverside County to set zone boundaries, and provides state reimbursement for any mandated local costs.

Major Provisions

COMMENTS

This bill aims to expand access to electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing jobs and education in lower-income and underserved communities, supporting California's goal under Executive Order N-79-20 to require 100% zero-emission new passenger vehicle sales by 2035. It directs the Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) to partner with educational institutions, EV manufacturers, and financial institutions to develop training, education, investment, and incentive programs, particularly in the Riverside County region.

The bill is based on prior legislation, AB 2448 (2023–24), which passed the Assembly but was vetoed due to unbudgeted fiscal impacts. AB 72 reasserts the Legislature's intent to ensure that the economic benefits of the transition to a zero-emission vehicle economy, such as workforce development, regional growth, and high-quality jobs, are equitably shared with historically underserved communities.

According to the Author

"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".

Arguments in Support

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 1) One-time General Fund costs of \$5.8 million, and ongoing costs of \$1.2 million, for the Labor Workforce Development Agency (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.

VOTES

ASM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND HOUSEHOLD IMPACT: 8-0-0

YES: Solache, Castillo, Bonta, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Soria, Stefani, Wallis

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Stefani, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Bauer-Kahan, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: January 5, 2026

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