
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Senator Blakespear, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 907

Author: Solache

Version: 5/20/2026

Hearing Date: 6/17/2026

Urgency: No

Fiscal: Yes

Consultant: Heather Walters

SUBJECT: State Air Resources Board: board members: compensation

DIGEST: This bill requires the six part-time members of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) representing air districts to receive an annual salary equal to other board members (which was \$59,133 as of 2025).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides for the appointment of 14 voting CARB members, as follows:
 - a) Twelve members appointed by the Governor on the basis of interest and ability in the field of air pollution control, understanding of the needs of the general public in connection with air pollution problems, and additional specific qualifications. These members serve at the pleasure of the Governor and are subject to confirmation by the Senate;
 - b) Two members, one each appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly. These two “environmental justice” members must work directly with communities in the state that are most significantly burdened by, and vulnerable to, high levels of pollution, including communities with diverse racial and ethnic populations and low-income populations; and
 - c) Members serve part-time, with the exception of the Chair, who is appointed by the Governor and serves full-time. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 39510)
- 2) Establishes the following specific qualifications for the 12 Governor-appointed board members:
 - a) One with training and experience in automotive engineering or a closely related field;

- b) One with training and experience in science, agriculture, or law;
 - c) One who is a physician and surgeon, or health effects expert;
 - d) One with experience in air pollution control, or meeting the qualifications of one of the three categories listed above;
 - e) Two public members;
 - f) One board member from each of the following air districts:
 - i) South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD);
 - ii) Bay Area Quality Management District (BAAQMD);
 - iii) San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD);
 - iv) San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD);
 - v) A district in the Sacramento federal nonattainment area; and,
 - vi) Any other district. (HSC § 39510)
- 3) Requires each member of certain boards (including CARB) to receive a certain salary (which was \$59,133 annually in 2025). (HSC § 39512 and Government Code (GOV) § 11564)
- 4) Requires the six air district members to serve without compensation but provides reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties to the extent that reimbursement for expenses is not otherwise provided or payable by another public agency or agencies. Requires each elected public official member to receive \$100/day, not to exceed \$1,000/month, for attending CARB meetings or while on ARB-authorized official business. (HSC § 39512.5)

This bill:

- 1) Repeals the prohibition on compensation for the six air district board members.
- 2) Repeals the \$100 per day, up to \$1000 per month, per diem for board members who are elected officials.
- 3) Requires each member of the six air district board members to receive the salary specified in GOV § 11564, to be paid by CARB.

Background

- 1) *The CARB Board.* The Board leads California's efforts to reduce air pollution and climate changing emissions, protecting public health from smog, air toxics,

and the impacts of a changing climate. Created by the Mulford-Carrell Act, and signed into law by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1967, the Board was given the responsibility to address serious air pollution issues on a statewide basis.

Today, the CARB Board consists of 16 members. Twelve are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. The twelve members include six who serve on local air districts, four experts in fields that shape air quality rules, two public members, and one, the Chair, who serves as the only full-time member. The Governor can choose any of the board members to serve as the Chair.

The other four include two who represent environmental justice communities (one appointed by the Senate and the other by the Assembly) and two nonvoting members appointed for Legislative oversight, one each from the Senate and Assembly.

In July 2018, the Board established staggered six-year terms for voting members pursuant to AB 197.

Comments

- 1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, “Voting members on ARB receive compensation as a yearly salary. However, the local air district voting members of the board are prohibited from receiving a salary, despite having similar duties and obligations. Limiting these board members’ compensation discredits the important local perspective when evaluating the board’s regulations, programs, and future policies. To remedy this, AB 907 seeks to establish pay parity among all board members by authorizing local air district representatives to receive a salary for their service.”
- 2) *Why not?* In the past, the justification for not paying a salary to the air district members has been that they are government officials receiving compensation from the agency they primarily work for. As budgets at air districts and CARB alike are stretched thin, CARB’s relatively higher budget would be proportionally less affected by paying Board member salaries. Particularly when the other ten members are receiving a CARB salary for substantially the same job, it seems fair to include the six air district appointees as well.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2958 (Calderon, 2023) was identical to this bill and passed out of this committee 7-0 in 2023 before being held on suspense in Senate Appropriations.

AB 2522 (W. Carrillo, Chapter 406, Statutes of 2023) increased per diem compensation and limits for the board members of a number of air districts.

SOURCE: South Coast Air Quality Management District

SUPPORT:

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
California Special Districts Association
City Hall District 6 Councilmember Eric Guerra
Coalition for Clean Air
South Coast Air Quality Management District

OPPOSITION:

None received

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