

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1293 (Alvarado-Gil) – As Amended April 6, 2026

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to provide written notice of planned highway closures and traffic detours that are part of a “rural project” to any affected resident or business, meaning one located within five miles of the project limits, as determined by Caltrans, at least 14 days before the project begins.

The bill defines rural project to mean any project Caltrans plans to perform within the right-of-way of a state highway in a county with a population of 60,000 people or fewer and that is to include a lane closure or a road closure for either seven days or more if there is no alternate route available or fourteen days or more if an alternate route is available.

FISCAL EFFECT:

This bill will create new administrative costs for Caltrans of an unknown, but potentially significant amount. The actual amount of Caltrans’ costs will depend, in large part, on the number of planned highway closures and traffic detours that are part of a project that meets the bill’s definition of rural project. Caltrans anticipates as many as two dozen projects will meet this definition and estimates resulting costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (State Highway Account).

COMMENTS:

Caltrans must maintain and, in some cases, expand or improve, the state highway system. Such maintenance is unavoidably disruptive. Caltrans’ own guidelines emphasize the need to minimize the disruptive effect of such highway projects. And Caltrans communicates planned maintenance projects and resulting road closures on its website and via a mobile app and social media.

Nonetheless, the author reports “a persistent communication gap between Caltrans and rural communities when transportation projects significantly disrupt local travel and commerce.” The author’s complaint is echoed by several local elected officials representing Tuolumne and Calaveras counties, such as the supervisors of Tuolumne County Districts 3 and District 4, who, together write:

recent experiences have demonstrated that communities are often not provided with sufficient advance notice of major road closures or prolonged construction impacts. These communication gaps can result in

significant consequences, including lost revenue for small businesses, reduced access to healthcare and employment, and extended detours with limited alternatives. SB 1293 provides a practical and targeted solution.

There is no opposition registered against this bill.

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