

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1324 (Blakespear) – As Amended March 23, 2026

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill extends by one year, from February 1, 2026, to February 1, 2027, the date by which a report on recommendations of the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor working group is to be submitted to the Legislature.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No new state costs.

COMMENTS:

Background State law defines several intercity rail corridors, among them the San Diego-Los Angeles-San Luis Obispo intercity passenger rail corridor, defined in statute as the LOSSAN Rail Corridor. The state-supported Pacific Surfliner intercity passenger rail service operates on the LOSSAN Rail Corridor and is one of the busiest intercity passenger rail services in the country.

Statute authorizes the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency to oversee operation of the Pacific Surfliner and to increase ridership, revenue, capacity, reliability, coordination and safety on the LOSSAN Rail Corridor. The agency is a joint powers authority composed of 11 voting members representing rail owners, operators, and planning agencies along the corridor. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) serves as the managing agency for the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency and provides management and administrative support to the agency.

Ridership on the LOSSAN dropped considerably following outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, for much of 2021 and 2022, rail service on the corridor was suspended in the face of repeated landslides and rockslides that pushed the rails dangerously seaward.

In 2024, the author of this bill introduced SB 1098, Chapter 777, Statutes of 2024, which, among other things, required several reports on LOSSAN, including a report by a working group of state and local agencies and various stakeholders to provide feedback on consensus recommendations regarding the long-term viability of comprehensive and coordinated passenger and freight services on the LOSSAN corridor. SB 1098 set a due date for the working group report of February 1, 2026; however, the working group has yet to submit the report.

According to the author, this bill “restates the urgency for action while the report is being finalized.”

There is neither support nor opposition registered for or against this bill.

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