

SENATE THIRD READING

SB 667 (Archuleta)

As Amended June 3, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on or before July 1, 2029, to review railroad sites classified as Local Safety Hazard Sites and determine whether changes in conditions, operations, or safety data warrant the removal, modification, or addition of any site.

Major Provisions**COMMENTS**

State law provides the CPUC with oversight of rail transit within the state to ensure its safe operation, though its regulatory authority is constrained by federal laws regarding rail safety and operation. In 1991, following a number of notable rail accidents, the Legislature required the CPUC to (1) identify railroad sites that were local safety hazards and (2) adopt regulations to prevent serious rail accidents at these sites. The courts determined that the CPUC's authority to regulate rail safety was largely preempted by federal law; however, the authority of the CPUC to identify local safety hazards remained.

In 1997 the CPUC created a list of all railroad derailment accident sites in the state at which accidents had occurred within at least the previous five years and of all railroad sites in the state the CPUC determined, consistent with federal law, pose a local safety hazard – deemed Local Safety Hazard Sites.

The CPUC reports to the legislature on any derailments that occur at these designated sites annually. State law also authorizes the CPUC to amend or revise the list of local safety hazard sites from the immediate prior year as necessary; however, the CPUC has not done so.

This bill requires the CPUC to review the list of local safety hazard sites and determine whether changes in conditions, operations or safety data warrant the removal, modification or addition of any railroad site.

According to the Author

According to the author, "Train accidents represent a persistent challenge to rail safety in the United States, with thousands of incidents occurring annually across the nation's extensive rail network. SB 667 takes a measured approach to enhance public safety by requiring the CPUC to review the list of eighteen railroad local safety hazard sites across California in its annual report to the legislature. The CPUC will include an evaluation of each site on the list and determine whether changes in conditions, operations, or safety data warrant the removal, modification, or addition of any site. This will allow California to identify issues with current operations at these sites, while also providing insight into how California can improve rail safety in the highest-risk corridors."

Arguments in Support

The California School Employees Association and the California Professional Firefighters emphasize that this bill will help increase public safety and rail crew members' safety by updating the assessment of local safety hazard sites.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the CPUC estimates annual costs of approximately \$568,000, until the updated report is complete.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 26-11-3**

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

NO: Alvarado-Gil, Cabaldon, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caballero, Grayson, Hurtado

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 18-0-0

YES: Petrie-Norris, Patterson, Boerner, Calderon, Chen, Davies, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Kalra, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Ta, Wallis, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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