

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 800 (Reyes) – As Amended July 9, 2025

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in consultation with affected local governments, to assess and determine appropriate mitigation measures—at a minimum, signage and infrastructure, such as barriers—to help prevent suicides on locally owned overpasses that have a history of suicide-related deaths, cross over state highways and are in the state’s right-of-way. The bill also directs Caltrans to consult with the Office of Suicide Prevention on how to prioritize implementation of the mitigation measures.

In addition, the bill requires Caltrans to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings related to the assessment of appropriate mitigation measures and prioritization of implementation of the mitigation measures.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

This bill will result in significant administrative and analytical workload to Caltrans to assess and determine appropriate mitigation measures to help prevent suicides on locally owned overpasses that have a history of suicide-related deaths, cross over state highways and are in the state’s right-of-way, and to prepare the related report. This work may entail one-time costs in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars (special fund). Costs to the Office of Suicide Prevention should be minor and absorbable.

Caltrans contends this work will cost in the low millions of dollars. In support of this cost estimate, Caltrans notes there are over 13,000 locally owned bridges in California, and Caltrans does not maintain an inventory of which of them cross over state highways and are in the state’s right-of-way, let alone which locally owned bridges have a history of suicide-related deaths. Caltrans asserts that surveying just 10% of these bridges would require significant resources for personnel, travel, local outreach and coordination, and analysis.

Caltrans also asserts—reasonably—that the report it produces in response to this bill would create significant cost pressure on Caltrans to address those bridges the report identifies as having a history of suicide-related deaths. As an illustration of possible costs to address such bridges, Caltrans points to costs to install a suicide barrier on the Coronado Bridge in San Diego, another too-frequent location of suicides and attempted suicides. Caltrans cites those costs as being \$125 million, though it acknowledges most other spans will be shorter, lower and simpler to address than is the Coronado Bridge.

**COMMENTS:**

For a variety of reasons, certain bridges and overpasses are frequently the sites of suicides. The Golden Gate Bridge, in particular, has long been a common spot for suicides, and attempted suicides, so much so that a suicide barrier now spans the entire length of the bridge. And the barrier seems effective at preventing or deterring suicide attempts, at least at that location: the Assembly Committee on Transportation reports that, since the barrier was installed, suicides and attempted suicides from the bridge have decreased by 73% and 34%, respectively.

Sadly, many of the state's other bridges and overpass, too, attract those contemplating suicide. As described by the author:

Last year, in my district, there were two subsequent suicides that occurred on the Haven Avenue overpass onto the 210 Freeway. While this tragedy in the City of Rancho Cucamonga has shaken the community there are steps we can take to ensure we have infrastructure to support our community and make it a safer place. This is why I have introduced SB 800 which would require Caltrans to install suicide deterrents on 10 freeway overpasses in San Bernardino County. These deterrents may include, but are not limited to, suicide prevention signage and physical barriers to prevent falls or intentional jumps that could result in death. In order to address the biggest losses, the bill prioritizes locations with the highest documented suicide rates over the past 20 years. Preventative measures like SB 800 are critical to ensuring similar situations will not occur in the future.

This bill is supported by the City of Rancho Cucamonga, among others. There is no opposition registered against this bill.

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