
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 88 (Caballero) - Air resources: carbon emissions: biomass

Version: April 21, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 23, 2025

Policy Vote: E.Q. 8 - 0, N.R. & W. 6 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop specified methods and protocols to quantify the avoided emissions and beneficial uses of forest and agricultural biomass. This bill would also direct the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to require forest health projects to include a resource disposal component, and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) to include biomass-derived low- and negative-carbon fuels, as specified, in certain reports.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 23, 2025

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown but potentially significant limited-term costs for CARB (Cost of Implementation Account [COIA] and/or Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF]) to include a strategy for biomass in the next scoping plan update.
- The CEC estimates ongoing costs of up to \$201,000 annually (Energy Resources Program Account [ERPA]) and 1 position for biomass analysis and modeling efforts. CEC notes that there is some uncertainty around the amount and scope of analysis that would be required, and actual costs could be less--potentially minor and absorbable.
- CalFire does not anticipate a fiscal impact as a result of this bill.
- To the extent this bill encourages forest treatment activities that reduce the occurrence of catastrophic wildfires from what otherwise would have occurred, it could result in potentially significant savings due to avoided fire suppression costs (General Fund).

Committee Amendments: Committee amendments strike the evaluation of new offset protocols and instead require the inclusion of a strategy for biomass in the next scoping plan update.

-- END --