

SENATE THIRD READING
SCR 7 (Niello)
As Introduced December 18, 2024
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Proclaims that the Legislature acknowledges the health benefits of permanent standard time, including: changing clocks between standard time and daylight saving time (DST) is disruptive to health, safety, education, and the economy; DST is scientifically proven to contribute to medical errors, heart attacks, car accidents, and student health issues and absenteeism; and permanent standard time has historically proven to last without incident for decades.

COMMENTS

Daylight Saving Time (DST) vs. standard time. DST is commonly understood as "summer time" and standard time is commonly understood as "winter time." In California, DST, summer time, is observed during the time of year when clocks "spring forward," between the second Sunday of March and first Sunday of November, consistent with federal law. Standard time, or winter time, in California is observed during the time of year when clocks "fall back," between the first Sunday of November and second Sunday of March.

History of DST. The first modern DST was established during World War I as an effort to save energy and conserve fuel. In April of 1916, at 11:00 p.m., Germany and Austria advanced the hands of their clocks one hour and kept them that way until the following October. Many other nations—mostly in Europe but including Tasmania and some Canadian provinces as well—followed suit. Two years later, the United States also established in law DST and created a standard time. That law defined standard time zones and set summer DST to begin on March 31, 1918. The nation observed DST for seven months in 1918 and 1919 but ceased to do so when Congress repealed the DST law. Nonetheless, from February 9, 1942, to September 30, 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt instituted year-round DST, or "War Time." From 1945 to 1966, there was no federal law regarding DST, leaving it to states and localities to choose whether and when to observe DST. For several years Congress has considered legislation to move to permanent DST. The Sunshine Protection Act, which would make daylight saving time permanent year round unless states opt out, was folded into a motor vehicle safety bill that passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on May 21, 2026 with a 48-1 vote. According to FactCheck.org, a 2022 poll by CBS News, 46% of Americans said they'd like DST all year around, while 33% preferred standard time all year around. Just 21% said they would like to keep switching back and forth. A Monmouth University poll that same year similarly found 44% of Americans favored year-round DST, while 13% favored year-round standard time and 35% said they'd like to keep changing the clocks twice a year. Currently, 19 states have enacted legislation to switch to year-round DST, if Congress votes to allow it, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

California Daylight Saving Time Act. California voters, in 1949, established The California Daylight Saving Time Act through the passage of Proposition 12. The proposition established standard time within California as the time which the federal government describes and designates as United States Pacific Standard Time (PST). The initiative also required that the state advance time one hour during the period from the last Sunday in April until the last Sunday

in October. In the mid-1960s, Congress enacted The Uniform Time Act of 1966 to establish a uniform standard DST within each time zone. The act set DST to begin on the last Sunday of April and to end on the last Sunday of October. This act exempted any state from observing DST if the state passed a law that results in year-round observance of standard time. Two states—Arizona and Hawaii—have done so. Federal law does not, however, give states the option to observe DST year-round. In an effort to save energy, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act in 2005 to extend DST in the U.S. by three weeks in the spring and one week in the fall. This change created a conflict between California's DST law and the federal law on DST. However, since federal law provides states only two options: observe standard time throughout the year, or observe DST on federally mandated dates. California has observed the dates consistent with the adjusted federal dates.

Proposition 7. AB 807 (Chu), Chapter 60, Statutes of 2018, placed a ballot measure before voters to make changes to the state's observance of DST. Proposition 7 allows the Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to make future changes to California's DST period, including applying year-round application of DST, if changes are consistent with federal law. Proposition 7 also conformed California DST to current federal law. To enact Proposition 7 the measure also repealed Proposition 12 of 1949, a ballot initiative that established DST in California. Proposition 7 passed with nearly 60% support.

Health benefits of standard time. In September 2025, Stanford Medicine reported a new study that found changing clocks twice a year disrupts circadian rhythms, leading to higher rates of stroke and obesity. Specifically, the study found that either permanent standard time or permanent DST would be healthier than our seasonal waffling, with permanent standard time benefitting the most people. According to Stanford Medicine, the researchers analyzed county-level data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the prevalence of arthritis, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, coronary heart disease, depression, diabetes, obesity and stroke. Their models show that permanent standard time would lower the nationwide prevalence of obesity by 0.78 percentage points and the prevalence of stroke by 0.09 percentage points, conditions influenced by circadian health. These seemingly small percentage changes in common conditions would amount to 2.6 million fewer people with obesity and 300,000 fewer cases of stroke. Under permanent DST, the nationwide prevalence of obesity would decrease by 0.51 percentage points, or 1.7 million people, and stroke by 0.04 percentage points, or 220,000 cases.

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), the U.S. attempted to adopt permanent DST in 1973 amid a nationwide energy crisis. During the first winter, complaints about prolonged darkness in the morning were rampant. Parents also had safety concerns because their children had to walk to school or wait for the bus in the dark. While the DST experiment was intended to last two years, it was so unpopular that Congress reverted the nation to standard time in the fall of 1974 after only 8 months. AASM states that the daily cycle of natural light and darkness is the most powerful timing cue to synchronize our body's internal clock. When we receive more light in the morning and darkness in the evening, our bodies and nature are better aligned, making it easier to wake up for our daily activities and easier to fall asleep at night.

According to the Author

This is a simple resolution expressing the well-known scientific and health facts around permanent standard time. The author contends that medical study after medical study shows that when we make the switch to daylight-saving, heart attacks, strokes, car accidents and medical

errors go up. In addition, the switch has a negative effect on our youth. Which is why the legislature decided a few years ago to favor MORE sleep for our students when we moved school start time back. DST forces them to rise in the dark further disrupting their natural sleep. This is not beneficial for their health or studies. The author argues we perform better when we sleep well at night and having daylight exposure closer to when we wake up better aligns us with our circadian rhythm. All of these medical reasons are why the California Medical Association, California Sleep Society, American Academy of Sleep Medicine, National Sleep Foundation, Sleep Research Society, and Society for Research on Biological Rhythms advise against permanent DST and recommend permanent standard time.

Arguments in Support

Northwest Noggin supports this bill stating that our ability to sleep well, as we know from both research and experience, is profoundly impacted by light. Permanent standard time is best aligned with the natural circadian rhythms of our own brains and bodies, allowing us to wake up more days of the year in sunlight. Northwest Noggin argues that teenagers forced to rise in darkness are sleep-deprived, with serious consequences for brain development and mental health. Every major neurodegenerative disorder, including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease - is preceded by about a decade of poor sleep. Daylight savings (and no daylight is ever "saved") was already tried in this country during the energy crisis of the 1970s, and rapidly repealed after children died waiting for buses in darkness. Permanent standard time is the policy supported by all the sleep research and medical organizations in the country, including the American Medical Association, the Sleep Research Society, the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and more.

Arguments in Opposition

None.

FISCAL COMMENTS

None.

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: 24-6-9

YES: Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Caballero, Choi, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Seyarto, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson

NO: Cabaldon, Cervantes, Padilla, Richardson, Stern, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Cortese, Grayson, Grove, Reyes, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

ASM HEALTH: 15-0-1

YES: Bonta, Chen, Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Caloza, Carrillo, Mark González, Patel, Patterson, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Stefani

ABS, ABST OR NV: Johnson

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