

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 226

Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin

February 4, 2009

An act to amend Section 30823 of, and to add Section 30821 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 226, as introduced, Ruskin. Coastal resources: California Coastal Act of 1976: enforcement.

(1) The California Coastal Act of 1976 requires any person undertaking development in the coastal zone to obtain a coastal development permit in accordance with prescribed procedures. Existing law authorizes the superior court to impose civil liability on any person who performs or undertakes development that is in violation of the act or that is inconsistent with any previously issued coastal development permit, and on any person who violates the act in any other manner and authorizes any person to maintain an action for recovery of these civil penalties.

This bill would provide that a person who violates the act is subject to an administrative civil penalty that may be imposed by the California Coastal Commission by a majority vote of the commissioners, upon consideration of various factors, in a public hearing in an amount no less than \$5,000 and no more than \$50,000 for each violation.

This bill would provide that a person shall not be subject to both monetary civil liability imposed by the commission and monetary civil liability imposed by the superior court for the same act or failure to act unless the person fails to pay the administrative penalty or fails to comply with an order issued by the commission in connection with the

penalty action or if the person elects to challenge the commission’s action in a court of law. This bill would also allow the commission to file a lien on the property of a violator in the amount of the penalty assessed by the commission if the violator fails to pay the fine.

(2) The act also requires that all funds derived from the payment of a penalty are to be deposited into the Violation Remediation Account of the Coastal Conservancy Fund, until appropriated by the Legislature, for purposes of carrying out the act.

This bill would instead require that all penalties derived from the payment of a penalty be deposited into the Coastal Act Services Fund, until appropriated by the Legislature, for the purposes of carrying out the act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 30821 is added to the Public Resources
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 30821. (a) In addition to any other penalties imposed pursuant
- 4 to this division, a person, including a landowner, who is in violation
- 5 of a provision of this division is subject to an administrative civil
- 6 penalty that may be imposed by the commission in an amount not
- 7 less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and not to exceed fifty
- 8 thousand dollars (\$50,000) for each violation.
- 9 (b) All penalties imposed pursuant to this subdivision shall be
- 10 imposed by majority vote of the commissioners present in a duly
- 11 noticed public hearing.
- 12 (c) In determining the amount of civil liability, the commission
- 13 shall take into account the factors set forth in subdivision (c) of
- 14 Section 30820.
- 15 (d) A person shall not be subject to both monetary civil liability
- 16 imposed under this section and monetary civil liability imposed
- 17 by the superior court for the same act or failure to act, unless the
- 18 person fails to pay the administrative penalty or fails to comply
- 19 with an order issued by the commission in connection with the
- 20 penalty action, or if the person elects to challenge the commission’s
- 21 action in a court of law.

1 (e) Failure to pay the fine imposed by the commission shall
2 allow the commission to file a lien on the property in the amount
3 of the penalty assessed by the commission.

4 SEC. 2. Section 30823 of the Public Resources Code is
5 amended to read:

6 ~~30823. Any funds derived under this article shall be expended~~
7 ~~for carrying out the provisions of this division, when appropriated~~
8 ~~by the Legislature. Funds so derived shall be deposited in the~~
9 ~~Violation Remediation Account of the Coastal Conservancy Fund~~
10 ~~until appropriated. All funds derived under this article shall be~~
11 ~~deposited in the Coastal Act Services Fund, established pursuant~~
12 ~~to subdivision (a) of Section 30620.1, until appropriated by the~~
13 ~~Legislature, for the purpose of carrying out this division.~~