

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1984

Introduced by Assembly Member Wagner

February 23, 2012

An act to add and repeal Section 25354 of the Vehicle Code, relating to buses.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1984, as introduced, Wagner. Buses: illuminated advertising: University of California, Irvine.

(1) Existing law authorizes a bus operated by a publicly owned transit system on regularly scheduled service to be equipped with illuminated signs that display information directly related to public service and include, among other things, destination signs, route-number signs, run-number signs, public service announcement signs, or a combination of those signs, visible from any direction of the vehicle, that emit any light color, other than the color red emitted from forward-facing signs, pursuant to specified conditions. Existing law authorizes, until January 1, 2017, a pilot program allowing up to 25 buses operated by the City of Santa Monica's publicly owned transit system for the first 2 years of the pilot program, and up to 30 buses thereafter, to be equipped with illuminated signs that display advertising subject to certain conditions.

This bill would authorize, until January 1, 2018, the University of California, Irvine to operate a pilot program identical to the one operated by the City of Santa Monica.

(2) This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the University of California, Irvine.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 25354 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
2 read:

3 25354. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 25400 and 25950, a bus
4 operated by the University of California, Irvine's public transport
5 system on regularly scheduled service, in addition to the
6 illuminated signs described in Section 25353, may also be equipped
7 with illuminated signs that display advertising and that emit any
8 light color, if all of the following conditions are met:

9 (1) Each illuminated sign displaying advertising emits diffused
10 nonglaring light.

11 (2) Each illuminated sign displaying advertising is limited in
12 size to a display area of not greater than 4,464 square inches.

13 (3) Each illuminated sign displaying advertising does not
14 resemble nor is installed in a position that interferes with the
15 visibility or effectiveness of a required lamp, reflector, or other
16 device upon the vehicle.

17 (4) Each illuminated sign displaying advertising is only placed
18 on one or both sides of the vehicle, and is not placed in a
19 forward-facing or rear-facing position, and no more than one such
20 sign is placed on either side of any single vehicle.

21 (5) The mixing of individually colored light emitting diode
22 elements, including red, is allowed in each illuminated sign
23 displaying advertising as long as the emitted color formed by the
24 combination of light emitting diode elements is not red.

25 (b) (1) An illuminated sign displaying advertising may be
26 operated as a dynamic message sign in a paging or streaming mode.
27 However, the electronic message sign display shall remain static
28 while a bus is operating on a freeway as defined in Section 257 of
29 the Streets and Highways Code.

30 (2) The following definitions shall govern the construction of
31 paragraph (1):

32 (A) "Paging," meaning character elements or other information
33 presented for a period of time and then disappearing all at once
34 before the same or new elements are presented, is permitted if the
35 display time of each message is between 2.7 and 10 seconds.
36 Blanking times between each message shall be between 0.5 and
37 25 seconds.

1 (B) “Streaming,” meaning character elements or other
2 information moving smoothly and continuously across the display,
3 is permitted if the character movement time, from one end of the
4 display to the other, is at least 2.7 seconds, and the movement time
5 of the entire message does not exceed 10 seconds.

6 (c) By July 1, 2017, the University of California, Irvine shall
7 submit to the Legislature and to the department a report on the
8 incidence of adverse impacts on roadway and pedestrian safety
9 due to the utilization of illuminated signs on transit buses
10 displaying advertising pursuant to this section, if any. The report
11 shall be the product of a collaborative effort by university law
12 enforcement and transit officials, other local law enforcement
13 officials in whose jurisdictions the university’s transit vehicles
14 operate, and the department.

15 (d) The University of California, Irvine’s public transport system
16 may, pursuant to subdivision (a), operate up to 25 buses with
17 illuminated signs displaying advertising for two years, after which
18 time the city may increase the number of buses with the signs to
19 up to 30.

20 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2018,
21 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
22 is enacted before January 1, 2018, deletes or extends that date.

23 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law
24 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable
25 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
26 Constitution because the University of California, Irvine’s public
27 transit system is operating a revenue deficit in light of budget
28 reductions and is evaluating several strategies designed to enhance
29 revenue to offset operational expenses, including the use of
30 electronic illuminated signage affixed to the side of buses to sell
31 advertising, and this act would allow the university to increase its
32 revenues on a pilot program basis.