

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 997**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro**

February 22, 2013

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An act amend Section 40116.1 of, and to add Section 40103 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 997, as introduced, Chesbro. Composting: anaerobic digestion.

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 establishes an integrated waste management program administered by the Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling that requires each city, county, and regional agency, if any, to develop a source reduction and recycling element of an integrated waste management plan. The element is required to divert 50% of the solid waste subject to the element through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities. The act allows the source reduction and recycling element to include not more than 10% diversion through transformation, which is defined as excluding, among other things, composting. The act defines the term “composting” for the purposes of the act as the controlled or uncontrolled biological decomposition of organic wastes. The act also defines the term “solid waste facility,” for purposes of the permitting requirements of the act, as a composting facility.

This bill would define the term “anaerobic digestion,” for purposes of the act, as a process using the bacterial breakdown of compostable organic material in a controlled environment that meets the parameters that may be established by the department, and would revise the definition of the term “composting” to include anaerobic digestion.

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 40103 is added to the Public Resources
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 40103. “Anaerobic digestion” means a process using the
- 4 bacterial breakdown of compostable organic material in a
- 5 controlled environment that meets the parameters that may be
- 6 established by the department.
- 7 SEC. 2. Section 40116.1 of the Public Resources Code is
- 8 amended to read:
- 9 40116.1. “Composting” means the controlled or uncontrolled
- 10 biological decomposition of organic wastes, *including through*
- 11 *anaerobic digestion.*