

**Introduced by Senator De León
(Coauthors: Senators DeSaulnier and Hancock)**

February 22, 2013

An act to add Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 5880) to Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to parks.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 783, as introduced, De León. The California Clean Water, Safe Urban Parks, and Environmental Health Investment Act of 2014.

Existing law enacts various programs pertaining to clean water and the establishment of public parks.

This bill would make specific findings and declarations and would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would improve the economy, the natural environment, and increase and improve access opportunities to physical fitness, by enacting the California Clean Water, Safe Urban Parks, and Environmental Health Investment Act of 2014.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) California's residents value state, local, and regional parks
- 4 and recreation venues, as they provide access to the serenity and
- 5 inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, and places for play and
- 6 exercise; facilities for directed and self-directed recreation;
- 7 activities that facilitate social connections, human development,

1 the arts, and lifelong learning; and positive alternatives for youth
2 that help lower crime and delinquency.

3 (b) California's parks and natural resources infrastructure have
4 social, health, environmental, recreational, and intrinsic value to
5 the citizens of the state; importantly, outdoor recreation can be a
6 critical economic driver to the state.

7 (c) A study commissioned by the Outdoor Industry Association
8 determined that the outdoor recreation economy contributes an
9 estimated \$46,000,000,000 annually to California. According to
10 this study, recreational cycling alone and its estimated 7,500,000
11 participants contribute nearly \$12,000,000,000 annually to
12 California's economy.

13 (d) California's unemployment rate continues to hover above
14 10 percent, an infusion of funds into capital projects will stimulate
15 job growth and provide for job skills to California's youth.

16 (e) Competition for outdoor recreational services and the scarce
17 ecotourism dollars throughout the west coast requires California
18 to enhance its investment in improving the quality and access to
19 recreational outlets.

20 (f) Continued investment in the state's parks and resource
21 infrastructure will mitigate the effects of global warming, thus
22 reducing California's carbon footprint.

23 (g) The well chronicled plight and backlog of over
24 \$1,000,000,000 in deferred maintenance and needed improvements
25 within the state park system is a call to arms.

26 (h) Over the course of the last grant funding cycles administered
27 by the state for local park improvements, the need for funds
28 outpaced the availability of funds by a factor of eight to one.

29 (i) While continued investment in acquiring valuable lands for
30 the conservation of open-space, habitat and future recreational
31 opportunity is critical, California has already made a substantial
32 investment in acquisition over the past decade and priority for
33 resource spending should be in accessing, developing, and
34 improving existing publically held lands.

35 (j) Investments in the state's waterways will improve water
36 quality and reliability and enhance fishery and wildlife habitats.

37 (k) A recent report issued by the federal Centers for Disease
38 Control and Prevention concluded that nearly 50 percent of the
39 nation's population will be considered obese by 2030.

1 (l) The costs attributable to California alone for physical
2 inactivity, obesity, and heightened risk factors associated with the
3 overweight population in 2006 were estimated at \$41,200,000,000.
4 In contrast, a 5 percent improvement in each of these risk factors
5 could result in annual savings of nearly \$2,400,000,000.

6 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
7 that would improve the economy, the natural environment, and
8 increase and improve access opportunities to physical fitness thus
9 reducing the incidence of obesity and childhood diabetes, by
10 enacting the California Clean Water, Safe Urban Parks, and
11 Environmental Health Investment Act of 2014.

12 SEC. 3. Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 5880) is added
13 to Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

14
15 CHAPTER 14. THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, SAFE URBAN
16 PARKS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT ACT OF 2014

17
18 5880. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the
19 California Clean Water, Safe Urban Parks, and Environmental
20 Health Investment Act of 2014.