

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1217

Introduced by Senator Leno

February 20, 2014

An act to add Section 12805.4 to the Government Code, relating to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1217, as amended, Leno. Climate change: preparedness.

Existing law establishes the Natural Resources Agency and requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to develop a strategic vision for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission that includes reforms necessary to take on the challenges of the 21st century, including, among other things, climate change and adaptation. Existing law establishes the Strategic Growth Council and requires the council to, among other things, identify and review activities and funding programs of its member state agencies that may be coordinated to, among other things, meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

This bill would require the agency, *in consultation with other appropriate state agencies and departments*, on or before January 1, ~~2016~~ 2017, and every ~~2~~ 5 years thereafter, to prepare a climate risk assessment and strategy evaluation of the state's vulnerability and risk for climate change impacts. The bill would require the council, *on or before January 1, 2018, and every 5 years thereafter*, in consultation with *the agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate state agencies and departments*, to ~~consider~~ *take specified actions with regard to reviewing* the impacts of climate change

~~on state projects and to identify projects that would provide climate adaptation or resiliency to the state and identifying capital outlay and public infrastructure projects. The bill would require the council to report its findings and provide a description of major projects relating to climate change to the appropriate state agencies, departments, commissions, and boards that make decisions related to capital funding. The bill would also require the council to report to the Legislature on those findings so that the Legislature may consider further action that may be necessary to address climate change in the state.~~

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
 2 *following:*
 3 *(a) California’s climate is changing, posing an escalated threat*
 4 *to public health, the environment, and public and private property*
 5 *in the state. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events,*
 6 *rising sea levels, and changes in hydrology, including diminishing*
 7 *snowpack, among other climate change impacts, will touch every*
 8 *part of Californians’ lives in the next century, and planning*
 9 *appropriately for these impacts will help us be better prepared for*
 10 *the future.*
 11 *(b) The impacts of climate change, including longer droughts,*
 12 *extended floods, prolonged fire seasons with larger and more*
 13 *intense fires, heat waves, and sea level rise are already creating*
 14 *challenges for public health and causing destructive property*
 15 *damage.*
 16 *(c) Climate changes pose a threat not just to the lives and health*
 17 *of the state’s residents, but to the financial health of our state and*
 18 *local governments.*
 19 *(d) According to the Natural Resources Agency’s draft report,*
 20 *entitled “Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk,”*
 21 *state-of-the-art modeling shows that a single extreme weather*
 22 *event in California could cost approximately \$725 billion dollars,*
 23 *with total direct property losses of nearly \$400 billion dollars, the*
 24 *effects of which could cause devastating impacts on the state’s*
 25 *residents, economy, and natural resources.*

1 (e) Reducing the impacts of climate change on California's
2 natural and agricultural resources is essential to building the
3 state's resiliency and ensuring its capacity to support its economy
4 over time.

5 (f) Given the potential impacts and long-term nature of effective
6 planning, California needs to consider and prepare for these
7 climate change impacts now.

8 (g) Without appropriate planning to make the state more
9 resilient to the identified impacts of climate change, in addition
10 to addressing the human and social costs of the effects of climate
11 change, California could face billions of dollars per year in direct
12 costs, and expose trillions of dollars of assets in the state to
13 collateral risk.

14 ~~SECTION 1.~~

15 *SEC. 2.* Section 12805.4 is added to the Government Code, to
16 read:

17 12805.4. (a) On or before January 1, ~~2016~~ 2017, and every
18 ~~two~~ five years thereafter, the Natural Resources Agency, in
19 consultation with other appropriate state agencies and
20 departments, shall prepare a climate risk assessment and strategy
21 evaluating California's vulnerability and risk for climate change
22 impacts, ~~such as including, but not limited to,~~ sea level rise, drought
23 and flooding, impacts on wildlife habitats, increasing temperatures,
24 increased occurrence of extreme weather events, and increased
25 wildland fire risk.

26 ~~(b) The Strategic Growth Council shall, in consultation with~~
27 ~~appropriate state agencies, do both~~ (1) On or before January 1,
28 2018, and every five years thereafter, the Strategic Growth Council
29 shall, in consultation with the Natural Resources Agency, the
30 California Environmental Protection Agency, and other
31 appropriate state agencies and departments, do all of the
32 following:

33 ~~(1) Consider the impacts of climate change on capital outlay~~
34 ~~and other state projects.~~

35 ~~(2) Identify projects that would provide climate adaptation and~~
36 ~~resiliency to the state.~~

37 (A) Review the impacts of climate change in the state with
38 regard to capital outlay and public infrastructure projects,
39 including, but not limited to, the impacts described in subdivision
40 (a).

1 (B) Identify and prioritize climate resiliency projects of major
2 significance that would benefit essential public infrastructure and
3 that would provide near-term and longer-term climate change
4 resiliency to the state.

5 (C) Identify possible funding sources for the projects described
6 in subparagraph (B).

7 (2) (A) The Strategic Growth Council shall report its findings
8 and provide a description of major projects identified in paragraph
9 (1) to the appropriate state agencies, departments, commissions,
10 and boards that make decisions related to capital funding.

11 (B) (i) The Strategic Growth Council shall also report to the
12 Legislature on its findings regarding climate change under
13 paragraph (1) so that the Legislature may consider further action
14 that may be necessary to address climate change in the state.

15 (ii) A report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to this
16 subparagraph shall comply with Section 9795 of the Government
17 Code.