

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 7, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2014

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1217**

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**Introduced by Senator Leno  
(Coauthors: Senators Jackson and Pavley)**

February 20, 2014

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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~~, *Natural Resources Agency*, in consultation with other appropriate state agencies and departments, on or before January 1, ~~2017~~, *2019*, and every 5 years thereafter, to prepare a climate ~~risk assessment and change strategy evaluation of the state's vulnerability and risk for climate change impacts, including a description~~

~~of any mitigation measures or that evaluates climate change risks to the state. The bill would require the strategy to identify mitigation measures that increase climate change resiliency methods. resiliency. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to identify possible funding for mitigation measures identified in the strategy.~~ The bill would require the council, on or before January 1, ~~2018~~, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, in consultation with the ~~agency~~, Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate state agencies and departments, to take specified actions with regard to reviewing the impacts of climate change 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.

1 (c) Climate changes pose a threat not just to the lives and health  
2 of the state’s residents, but to the financial health of our state and  
3 local governments.

4 (d) According to the Natural Resources Agency’s draft report,  
5 entitled “Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk,”  
6 state-of-the-art modeling shows that a single extreme weather  
7 event in California could cost approximately \$725 billion dollars,  
8 with total direct property losses of nearly \$400 billion dollars, the  
9 effects of which could cause devastating impacts on the state’s  
10 residents, economy, and natural resources.

11 (e) Reducing the impacts of climate change on California’s  
12 natural and agricultural resources is essential to building the state’s  
13 resiliency and ensuring its capacity to support its economy over  
14 time.

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

18 (g) Without appropriate planning to make the state more resilient  
19 to the identified impacts of climate change, in addition to  
20 addressing the human and social costs of the effects of climate  
21 change, California could face billions of dollars per year in direct  
22 costs, and expose trillions of dollars of assets in the state to  
23 collateral risk.

24 SEC. 2. Section 12805.4 is added to the Government Code, to  
25 read:

26 12805.4. (a) On or before January 1, ~~2017~~, 2019, and every  
27 five years thereafter, the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation  
28 with other appropriate state agencies and departments, shall prepare  
29 a climate ~~risk assessment and change strategy evaluating~~  
30 ~~California’s vulnerability and risk for climate change impacts, that~~  
31 *evaluates climate change risks to the state*, including, but not  
32 limited to, sea level rise, drought and flooding, impacts on wildlife  
33 habitats, increasing temperatures, increased occurrence of extreme  
34 weather events, and increased wildland fire risk. ~~The risk~~  
35 ~~assessment and strategy shall also describe any mitigation measures~~  
36 ~~or climate change resiliency methods, as may be appropriate, to~~  
37 ~~address identified vulnerabilities and risks. The strategy shall also~~  
38 *identify mitigation measures that increase climate resiliency. The*  
39 *Natural Resources Agency shall identify possible funding for*  
40 *mitigation measures identified in the strategy.*

1 (b) (1) On or before January 1, ~~2018~~, 2020, and every five years  
2 thereafter, the Strategic Growth Council shall, in consultation with  
3 the Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental  
4 Protection Agency, and other appropriate state agencies and  
5 departments, do all of the following:

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

9 (B) Identify and prioritize climate resiliency projects of major  
10 significance that would benefit essential public infrastructure and  
11 that would provide near-term and longer-term climate change  
12 resiliency to the state.

13 (C) Identify possible funding sources for the projects described  
14 in subparagraph (B).

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

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

23 (ii) A report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to this  
24 subparagraph shall comply with Section 9795 of the Government  
25 Code.