

## Senate Bill No. 1236

### CHAPTER 253

An act to amend Section 830.14 of the Penal Code, and to amend Section 99170 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to transit districts.

[Approved by Governor August 22, 2014. Filed with  
Secretary of State August 22, 2014.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1236, Monning. Transit districts: transit offenses and enforcement.

(1) Existing law authorizes a local or regional transit agency or a joint powers agency operating rail service to contract with designated persons to act as its agent in the enforcement of specified provisions relative to certain prohibited acts on or in public transportation systems or vehicles if the persons satisfy specified training requirements.

This bill would authorize the governing board of a transit district to designate district employees, except as specified, or security officers contracted by the district, to enforce state laws relative to certain prohibited acts on or in public transportation systems or on the property, facilities, or vehicles of a transit district, if the employees or officers satisfy specified training requirements.

(2) Existing law prohibits a person from doing any of specified acts with respect to the property, facilities, or vehicles of a transit district, including, among other things, violating a notice, prohibition, instruction, or direction on a sign that is intended to provide for the safety and security of transit passengers, or the safe and secure operation of the transit system. A violation of these provisions is an infraction.

This bill would additionally prohibit a person from (A) knowingly giving false information to a district employee, or contracted security officer, engaged in the enforcement of a district ordinance or a state law, or otherwise obstructing the issuance of a citation for the violation of a district ordinance or a state law, or (B) violating any of the conditions established by a transit district ordinance under which a passenger may board a transit vehicle with a bicycle and where that bicycle may be stowed on the transit vehicle. The bill would also delete an obsolete provision. By providing for the creation of new crimes, this bill would thereby impose a state-mandated local program.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

SECTION 1. Section 830.14 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

830.14. (a) A local or regional transit agency or a joint powers agency operating rail service identified in an implementation program adopted pursuant to Article 10 (commencing with Section 130450) of Chapter 4 of Division 12 of the Public Utilities Code may authorize by contract designated persons as conductors performing fare inspection duties who are employed by a railroad corporation that operates public rail commuter transit services for that agency to act as its agent in the enforcement of subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640 relating to the operation of the rail service if they complete the training requirement specified in this section.

(b) The governing board of the Altamont Commuter Express Authority, a joint powers agency duly formed pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, by and between the Alameda Congestion Management Agency, the Santa Clara County Transit District, and the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, may contract with designated persons to act as its agents in the enforcement of subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640 relating to the operation of a public transportation system if these persons complete the training requirement specified in this section.

(c) The governing board of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, a joint powers agency duly formed pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, by and between the San Mateo County Transit District, the Santa Clara County Transit District, and the City and County of San Francisco, may appoint designated persons to act as its agents in the enforcement of subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640 relating to the operation of a public transportation system if these persons complete the training requirement specified in this section.

(d) The governing board of Foothill Transit, a joint powers agency duly formed pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, by and between the Cities of Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Claremont, Covina, Diamond Bar, Duarte, El Monte, Glendora, Industry, Irwindale, La Habra Heights, La Puente, La Verne, Monrovia, Pomona, San Dimas, South El Monte, Temple City, Walnut, West Covina, and the County of Los Angeles, may resolve to contract with designated persons to act as its agents in the enforcement of subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640 relating to the operation of a public transportation system if these persons complete the training requirement specified in this section.

(e) The governing board of the Sacramento Regional Transit District, a transit district duly formed pursuant to Part 14 (commencing with Section 102000) of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code, may designate persons regularly employed by the district as inspectors or supervisors to enforce subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640, relating to the operation of a public transportation system, and any ordinance adopted by the district

pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 102122 of the Public Utilities Code, if these persons complete the training requirement specified in this section.

(f) The governing board of a transit district, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 99170 of the Public Utilities Code, may designate employees, except for union-represented employees employed to drive revenue-generating transit vehicles, or security officers contracted by the transit district, to enforce subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640, and Section 640.5, and violations of Section 99170 of the Public Utilities Code.

(g) Persons authorized pursuant to this section to enforce subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640, or Section 640.5, or Section 99170 of the Public Utilities Code, shall complete a specialized fare compliance course that shall be provided by the authorizing agency. This training course shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- (1) An overview of barrier-free fare inspection concepts.
- (2) The scope and limitations of inspector authority.
- (3) Familiarization with the elements of the infractions enumerated in subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 640, and, as applicable, the crimes enumerated in Section 640.5, and Section 99170 of the Public Utilities Code.
- (4) Techniques for conducting fare checks, including inspection procedures, demeanor, and contacting violators.
- (5) Citation issuance and court appearances.
- (6) Fare media recognition.
- (7) Handling argumentative violators and diffusing conflict.
- (8) The mechanics of law enforcement support and interacting with law enforcement for effective incident resolution.

(h) Persons described in this section are public officers, not peace officers, have no authority to carry firearms or any other weapon while performing the duties authorized in this section, and may not exercise the powers of arrest of a peace officer while performing the duties authorized in this section. These persons may be authorized by the agencies specified in this section to issue citations involving infractions relating to the operation of the rail service specified in this section.

(i) Nothing in this section shall affect the retirement or disability benefits provided to employees described in this section or be in violation of any collective bargaining agreement between a labor organization and a railroad corporation.

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the primary responsibility of a conductor of a commuter passenger train shall be functions related to safe train operation.

SEC. 2. Section 99170 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read: 99170. (a) A person shall not do any of the following with respect to the property, facilities, or vehicles of a transit district:

- (1) Operate, interfere with, enter into, or climb on or in, the property, facilities, or vehicles owned or operated by the transit district without the permission or approval of the transit district.

(2) Interfere with the operator or operation of a transit vehicle, or impede the safe boarding or alighting of passengers.

(3) Extend any portion of the body through a window opening of a transit vehicle in a manner that may cause harm or injury.

(4) Throw an object from a transit vehicle.

(5) Commit an act or engage in a behavior that may, with reasonable foreseeability, cause harm or injury to any person or property.

(6) Violate a notice, prohibition, instruction, or direction on a sign that is intended to provide for the safety and security of transit passengers, or the safe and secure operation of the transit system.

(7) Knowingly give false information to a district employee, or contracted security officer, engaged in the enforcement of a district ordinance or a state law, or otherwise obstruct the issuance of a citation for the violation of a district ordinance or a state law.

(8) Violate any of the conditions established by a transit district ordinance under which a passenger may board a transit vehicle with a bicycle and where that bicycle may be stowed on the transit vehicle.

(b) For purposes of this section, “transit district” means an entity that qualifies as a claimant, as defined in Section 99203, eligible to receive allocations under Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 99200).

(c) A violation of this section is an infraction under Section 19.8 of the Penal Code punishable by a fine not exceeding seventy-five dollars (\$75), and a violation by a person after a second conviction is punishable by a fine not exceeding two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or by community service that does not conflict with the violator’s hours of school attendance or employment for a total time not to exceed 48 hours over a period not to exceed 60 days.

(d) A transit district shall provide reasonable notification to the public of the activities prohibited by this section and the penalties for violations of those prohibitions.

(e) This section does not prohibit a person from engaging in activities that are protected under the laws of the United States or of this state, including, but not limited to, picketing, demonstrating, or distributing handbills.

(f) Revenue from fines imposed pursuant to subdivision (c) shall not be distributed or allocated to the transit agency issuing citations under this section. Fine revenue instead shall be allocated to the other entities eligible to receive those funds under existing law.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime

within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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