

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 9, 2015  
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 2015  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2015  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 726**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Dababneh)**

February 25, 2015

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An act to add Section 35400.75 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 726, as amended, Nazarian. Vehicles: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Existing law imposes a 40-foot limitation on the length of vehicles that may be operated on the highways, with specified exemptions. Existing law exempts from this limitation, among other things, an articulated bus or articulated trolley coach that does not exceed a length of 60 feet.

This bill would authorize the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to operate articulated buses that do not exceed a length of 82 feet on the route designated as the Orange Line in the County of Los Angeles. The bill would require the authority to establish a route review committee prior to operation of those buses, as specified. The bill would require that implementation of those articulated bus operations would be contingent upon a determination by a majority of

the route review committee that the Orange Line and routes between the Orange Line, maintenance facilities, and storage yards are suitable for the safe operation of those buses. The bill would also make implementation of those articulated bus operations contingent upon specified collective bargaining requirements.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

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. Section 35400.75 is added to the Vehicle Code,
- 2 immediately following Section 35400.7, to read:
- 3 35400.75. (a) Notwithstanding Section 35400, the Los Angeles
- 4 County Metropolitan Transportation Authority created pursuant
- 5 to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 130050) of Division 12
- 6 of the Public Utilities Code may operate articulated buses that do
- 7 not exceed a length of 82 feet on the route designated as the Orange
- 8 Line in the County of Los Angeles, and between that route,
- 9 terminals, and maintenance facilities.
- 10 (b) (1) The authority shall establish a route review committee
- 11 prior to the operation of any bus, pursuant to subdivision (a), that
- 12 is greater than 60 feet in length.
- 13 (2) The committee shall perform a review of the Orange Line
- 14 route and any necessary routes from the Orange Line to
- 15 maintenance and storage yards upon which the authority proposes
- 16 to operate a bus greater than 60 feet in length, pursuant to
- 17 subdivision (a), prior to the operation of those buses. The reviews
- 18 shall include field reviews of the Orange Line and proposed routes.
- 19 The field reviews shall include ~~consultation~~ *both of the following:*
- 20 (A) *Consultation* with traffic engineers from public agencies
- 21 that have jurisdiction over the routes where the buses are proposed
- 22 to be operated pursuant to subdivision (a), to ensure coordination
- 23 with the affected state and local public agencies for purposes of
- 24 public safety.
- 25 (B) *Consultation with pavement engineers from public agencies*
- 26 *that have jurisdiction over the routes where the buses are proposed*
- 27 *to be operated pursuant to subdivision (a), to ensure that any*

1 *impacts of the weight of the vehicles upon any streets and roads*  
2 *that are used to access the right-of-way or are crossed by the*  
3 *right-of-way are considered.*

4 (3) The route review committee shall be comprised of four  
5 members, as follows:

6 (A) A member representing the authority who shall be appointed  
7 by the authority's general manager.

8 (B) A member who is a traffic engineer who shall be appointed  
9 by the authority's general manager.

10 (C) A member appointed by the labor organization that is the  
11 exclusive representative of the bus drivers of the authority.

12 (D) A member representing law enforcement appointed by the  
13 law enforcement agency having authority over the proposed routes.

14 (4) The route review committee shall determine, by majority  
15 vote, whether the Orange Line is suitable for the safe operation of  
16 a bus exceeding 60 feet in length, but not exceeding 82 feet in  
17 length, and shall determine, by majority vote, routes that are  
18 suitable for the safe operation of those buses between the Orange  
19 Line, maintenance facilities, and storage yards.

20 (c) Implementation of this section is subject to both of the  
21 following:

22 (1) The collective bargaining requirements under Article 10  
23 (commencing with Section 30750) of Chapter 5 of Part 3 of  
24 Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code and the Los Angeles  
25 County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Transit  
26 Employer-Employee Relations Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with  
27 Section 99560) of Part 11 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities  
28 Code).

29 (2) Determination by a majority vote of the route review  
30 committee that the Orange Line and the routes between the Orange  
31 Line, maintenance facilities, and storage yards are suitable for the  
32 safe operation of buses pursuant to subdivision (a).

33 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law  
34 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable  
35 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California  
36 Constitution because of the unique circumstances of a large number  
37 of riders using buses operated by the Los Angeles County

- 1 Metropolitan Transportation Authority on the Orange Line and
- 2 the need to reduce overcrowding on those buses.

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