

Assembly Bill No. 968

CHAPTER 518

An act to add Sections 39619 and 39619.5 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to air pollution.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 1997. Filed
with Secretary of State September 29, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 968, Knox. Air pollution: fine particles: monitoring program.

Existing law does not specifically regulate air pollution from particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter.

This bill would require the State Air Resources Board to conduct a specified program to monitor those particles and report annually by January 1 to the Legislature on the status and results of the program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 39619 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

39619. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Recent scientific studies have documented significant adverse public health effects associated with exposure to airborne fine particles that are smaller than 2.5 microns (PM 2.5).

(b) Federal ambient air quality standards for the control of particles smaller than 10 microns in diameter (PM 10) will require additional emission controls in California.

(c) California's existing ambient air quality monitoring program for PM 10 and PM 2.5 provides inadequate scientific information with regard to the level of public exposure to, and public health risk from, airborne fine particles, and therefore must be expanded and improved to evaluate priorities and establish appropriate control strategies.

(d) Current proposals for required monitoring of PM 2.5 by the Environmental Protection Agency may not be appropriate for properly measuring species of pollutants that comprise the principal components of airborne fine particles within the state.

(e) California needs to develop an airborne fine particle monitoring program that reflects the specific nature of California's fine particle air pollution problem and develops data suitable for use in exposure evaluations.

(f) California should use the most accurate methods available in the fine particle monitoring program that are appropriate for use in California and should strive to avoid duplication of the federal air monitoring program whenever possible.

SEC. 2. Section 39619.5 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

39619.5. (a) The state board shall develop and conduct an expanded and revised program of monitoring of airborne fine particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM 2.5). The program shall be designed to accomplish all of the following:

(1) The monitoring method selected shall be capable of accurately representing the spectrum of compounds that comprise PM 2.5 in the atmosphere of regions where monitoring is conducted, including nitrates and other inorganic compounds, as well as carbonaceous materials.

(2) To the extent feasible, the state board shall consider approved federal particulate methods in selecting a monitoring method for the program.

(3) The monitoring network used in the program shall site monitors so as to characterize population exposure, background conditions, and transport influence, and attain any other objective identified by the state board as necessary to understand conditions and to provide information for the development of control strategies.

(4) Portable monitors shall be used in locations not now monitored for PM 10, but where elevated PM 2.5 might be expected.

(5) During the initial two years of expanded monitoring, PM 2.5 monitoring shall be done at one or more of the highest level PM 10 sites in any region that violates the federal ambient air quality standard for PM 10, to enable a determination of the correlation between levels of PM 10 and PM 2.5.

(6) In regions where ambient source characterization studies for PM 2.5 have not been completed, the state board shall work with the district to develop and conduct those studies.

(b) The state board shall report annually by January 1 to the Legislature on the status and results of the airborne fine particle air pollution monitoring program.

