

**Introduced by Senator Perata**

February 25, 1999

---

---

An act to add Section 14035.55 to the Government Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 804, as introduced, Perata. Transportation: rail feeder bus service.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to contract with common carriers, as defined, or with any other entity to provide feeder services to or from rail passenger terminals or intercity bus transportation.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation, or its successor in interest, to state-subsidized service provided by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), to consult with intercity bus companies for the purpose of determining whether or not intercity bus companies can provide desired rail feeder bus service under terms and conditions beneficial to the state's interests in intercity passenger rail service.

The bill would require the department, or its successor in interest, as specified, to encourage Amtrak and motor carriers of passengers to combine or package their respective services, as specified, and to coordinate schedules, routes, rates, reservations, and ticketing to provide for enhanced intermodal surface transportation.

The bill would authorize the department or its successor in interest to provide funding to Amtrak for the purpose of entering into a contract with a motor carrier of passengers for

the intercity transportation of passengers over regular routes, if, among other things, the motor carrier is not a public provider of mass transportation service who is a recipient of governmental assistance, except as specified, and the service is provided only for trips where passengers have had prior movement by rail or will have subsequent movement by rail.

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. Section 14035.55 is added to the  
 2 Government Code, to read:  
 3 14035.55. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of  
 4 the following:  
 5 (1) Intercity passenger bus service provided by  
 6 intercity bus companies on a regular route basis is the only  
 7 public mass transportation service in the state to provide  
 8 surface transportation without public subsidy.  
 9 (2) The long-term maintenance of private sector  
 10 intercity passenger service is of vital importance to the  
 11 state.  
 12 (3) Intercity bus companies serve over 250  
 13 communities throughout California, providing a network  
 14 of connection points without equal by any other mode of  
 15 public or private transportation.  
 16 (4) The coordination of this intercity passenger bus  
 17 service and intercity passenger rail service is necessary to  
 18 ensure the optimum level of service for Californians in  
 19 need of surface transportation.  
 20 (5) The Amtrak California Thruway Bus network is  
 21 operated by Amtrak for the state and is designed to help  
 22 rail passengers complete trips that begin or end with  
 23 transportation on an Amtrak passenger train.  
 24 (6) It is in the best interest of the state that the Amtrak  
 25 California Thruway Bus network and the network of  
 26 private intercity bus providers be coordinated to avoid  
 27 unnecessary duplication of service for the benefit of all  
 28 Californians in need of surface passenger transportation.



1 (7) It is counterproductive to the maintenance of this  
2 service for the state to subsidize bus service that  
3 competes directly or indirectly with nonsubsidized bus  
4 services.

5 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for  
6 the purposes of operating passenger rail feeder bus  
7 service, including the addition to, or modification of,  
8 existing feeder bus service, the department shall annually  
9 consult with intercity bus companies for the purpose of  
10 determining whether or not intercity bus companies are  
11 able to provide the desired feeder bus service under  
12 terms and conditions beneficial to the state's interests in  
13 intercity passenger rail service.

14 (c) To the extent permitted by federal law, the  
15 department shall encourage Amtrak and motor carriers  
16 of passengers to do both of the following:

17 (1) Combine or package their respective services and  
18 facilities to the public as a means of improving service to  
19 the public.

20 (2) Coordinate schedules, routes, rates, reservations,  
21 and ticketing to provide for enhanced intermodal surface  
22 transportation.

23 (d) The department may provide funding to Amtrak  
24 for the purpose of entering into a contract with a motor  
25 carrier of passengers for the intercity transportation of  
26 passengers by motor carrier over regular routes only if all  
27 of the following conditions are met:

28 (1) The motor carrier is not a public provider of mass  
29 transportation service who is a recipient of governmental  
30 assistance, other than a recipient of funds under Section  
31 5311(f) of Title 49 of the United States Code.

32 (2) Service is provided only for passengers on trips  
33 where the passengers have had prior movement by rail  
34 or will have subsequent movement by rail.

35 (3) Vehicles of the motor carrier, when used to  
36 transport passengers pursuant to paragraph (2), are used  
37 exclusively for that purpose.

38 (4) The annual consultation required by subdivision  
39 (b) has taken place and the intercity bus companies  
40 consulted are not able to provide the desired feeder



1 service under terms and conditions beneficial to the  
2 state’s interest in intercity passenger rail and intercity  
3 passenger bus service.

4 (e) The department shall incorporate the conditions  
5 specified in subdivision (d) into state-supported  
6 passenger rail feeder bus service agreements between  
7 Amtrak and motor carriers of passengers. The bus service  
8 agreements shall also provide that a breach of those  
9 conditions shall be grounds for termination of the  
10 agreements.

11 (f) For purposes of this section, the following terms  
12 have the following meanings:

13 (1) “Amtrak” means the National Railroad Passenger  
14 Corporation.

15 (2) “Department” means the Department of  
16 Transportation or the department’s successor with  
17 respect to providing funds to subsidize Amtrak service.

18 (3) “Intercity bus companies” and “motor carrier”  
19 mean companies or carriers that operate regularly  
20 scheduled bus passenger service that (A) are registered  
21 with the United States Department of Transportation  
22 (DOT), and that (B) operate in compliance with the  
23 federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and DOT  
24 regulations adopted in compliance with the Americans  
25 with Disabilities Act regulations including accessibility to  
26 over-the-road busses and over-the-road bus service.

27 (4) “Intercity passenger bus service” means regularly  
28 scheduled bus passenger service, except commuter, air,  
29 water, and rail passenger service, for the general public  
30 that operates with limited stops over fixed routes  
31 connecting two or more urbanized or nonurbanized  
32 areas not in close proximity, that has the capacity to  
33 transport baggage carried by passengers, and that makes  
34 connections at common points with scheduled intercity  
35 bus service to more distant points. The service shall  
36 publish schedule information which shall be made  
37 available through a nationally published schedule guide.

O

