

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 22, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 15, 2010

SENATE BILL

No. 964

**Introduced by Senator Alquist
(Principal coauthor: Senator Steinberg)
(Coauthors: Senators Ducheny and Leno)**

February 5, 2010

An act to add Section 185039 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to workforce training, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 964, as amended, Alquist. Workforce development program: high-speed rail.

Existing law, the California High-Speed Train Act, creates the High-Speed Rail Authority to develop and implement a high-speed train system in the state, with specified powers and duties. Existing law, the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century, provides for the issuance of \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds for high-speed rail and related purposes.

This bill would require the authority to contract with the Employment Development Department to develop a labor market assessment of the workforce and identify the education and skills needed for construction, operation, and maintenance of the high-speed train system. The bill would require the authority and the department to form an advisory committee, as specified, to advise the authority and the department on the availability of skilled labor relative to the high-speed train project and on options for workforce training programs in that regard. The bill would require the labor market assessment to be submitted to the

Legislature and incorporated into the authority's biennial revised business plan.

This bill would appropriate \$500,000 from the High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Fund to the authority for these purposes, *as specified*. The bill would also make related legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. 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) The construction of the 800-mile high-speed train system in
4 California is estimated to be a 10-year construction project
5 providing approximately 600,000 construction jobs and 450,000
6 permanent jobs for the California economy.

7 (b) Constructing, maintaining, and operating a high-speed train
8 system will require a large traditional labor pool and many unique
9 skill sets not typical in a more conventional transportation
10 construction project. To fully construct a high-speed train system
11 using California labor, there is a need for skilled and trained
12 individuals in the fields of engineering and electrical power
13 systems, materials experts, control system and computer system
14 technicians, and specialized maintenance workers, among others.
15 To ensure the availability of these labor skills and resources needed
16 for construction of the high-speed train system and to maximize
17 the extent of California labor force participation in the completion
18 of the high-speed train system, it is crucial that the state
19 immediately begin the actions necessary to achieve these resource
20 goals and requirements.

21 (c) As a critical first step, it is important for the state to have a
22 full assessment of the labor needs to plan for this transportation
23 “mega project,” and to provide the necessary training and
24 educational opportunities so that Californians, to the greatest extent
25 possible, may participate in, and benefit from, this historic and
26 transformative public works project.

27 (d) As part of its responsibilities and function to plan for the
28 development of a high-speed train system in California, it is
29 essential that the High-Speed Rail Authority work collaboratively
30 with the state's Employment Development Department, the

University of California, California State University, California Community Colleges, the California Workforce Investment Board, the California Department of Education, and labor representatives and related organizations with expertise in trade apprenticeship programs, to assess the labor needs and recommend actions to ensure adequate workforce training is available for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a high-speed train system in this state.

(e) The Legislature finds and declares that it is appropriate to utilize funds from Proposition 1A of 2008, the Safe, Reliable, High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century (Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 2704) of Division 3 of the Streets and Highways Code), for the purposes set forth in Section 185039 of the Public Utilities Code, as added by this act.

SEC. 2. Section 185039 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

185039. (a) Pursuant to its duty to plan for the development of a high-speed train system in California, the authority shall contract with the Employment Development Department to collaboratively develop a labor market assessment of the workforce and identify the education and skills needed to (1) construct the high-speed train system authorized for bond funding under the Safe, Reliable, High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century (Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 2704) of Division 3 of the Streets and Highways Code) and (2) operate and maintain the high-speed train system, as necessary to aid the authority in planning the construction of the high-speed train system. The assessment shall include a recommended strategy to ensure workforce training programs are available to facilitate the availability of a skilled, in-state workforce to participate, to the maximum extent feasible, in the construction of the high-speed train system.

(b) To achieve the objectives described in subdivision (a), the authority and the Employment Development Department shall establish an advisory committee to advise both agencies on the availability and potential availability of skilled labor, by region, necessary to (1) construct the high-speed train system and (2) operate and maintain the high-speed train system, as necessary to aid the authority in planning the construction of the high-speed train system. In addition, the advisory committee shall advise both

1 agencies on workforce training programs and funding options
2 available, or proposed to be available, to ensure a qualified skilled
3 workforce in California may participate in the construction of the
4 high-speed train system.

5 (c) (1) Members of the advisory committee established pursuant
6 to subdivision (b) shall include, but not be limited to,
7 representatives from the following organizations:

8 (A) The authority.

9 (B) The state's higher education institutions, including the
10 University of California, the California State University system,
11 and the California Community College Chancellor's office.

12 (C) The California Workforce Investment Board.

13 (D) The State Department of Education.

14 (E) Labor organizations with expertise in operating
15 apprenticeship programs for the skills necessary to build, operate,
16 and maintain a high-speed train system.

17 (F) The Employment Training Panel.

18 (2) The authority may include parties in addition to those
19 identified in paragraph (1) as members of the advisory committee.

20 (d) The assessment and recommendations developed pursuant
21 to subdivision (a) shall consider the short-term and long-term labor
22 needs for the project, including the need for specific skills in
23 specific regions of the state.

24 (e) The assessment produced pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
25 be submitted to the fiscal committees and the policy committees
26 of the Legislature with jurisdiction over transportation and labor
27 matters by January 1, 2012. The assessment shall be submitted in
28 compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. This
29 subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1, 2016, pursuant
30 to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

31 (f) The assessment produced pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
32 be incorporated in the authority's biennial revised business plan
33 and submitted to the Legislature for its review pursuant to Section
34 185033.

35 (g) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is
36 hereby appropriated from the High-Speed Passenger Train Bond
37 Fund to the authority for purposes of this section. *The funds*
38 *appropriated for the purposes of this section shall be allocated*
39 *from the funds set aside in subdivision (b) of Section 2704.08 of*

- 1 *the Streets and Highways Code for environmental studies,*
- 2 *planning, and preliminary engineering activities.*

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