

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Lowenthal)

April 21, 2014

Senate Joint Resolution No. 24—Relative to the federal Highway Trust Fund.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 24, as introduced, DeSaulnier. Federal Highway Trust Fund.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to stabilize the federal Highway Trust Fund by developing a long-term plan to promote adequate federal Highway Trust Fund revenues, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, A safe, efficient, and reliable surface transportation
- 2 network is vital to California’s future economic growth, quality
- 3 of life, and security; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Inadequate investment in California’s highway
- 5 and bridge infrastructure system is having a dramatic impact on
- 6 the citizens of California, causing them to spend too much time
- 7 idling on increasingly congested roads and bridges rather than with
- 8 their families; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century
- 10 Act (MAP-21), that authorized the federal highway and public
- 11 transportation programs, will expire September 30, 2014; and
- 12 WHEREAS, The federal Highway Trust Fund and its user
- 13 fee-based revenue stream supports all federal investment in
- 14 highway and bridge improvements and the vast majority of the
- 15 federal public transportation program; and

1 WHEREAS, The federal Highway Trust Fund experienced
2 revenue shortfalls in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2012 that created
3 uncertainty about federal surface transportation investment
4 commitments; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Transportation
6 will begin slowing reimbursements to states for already approved
7 federal-aid projects as early as July of this year to preserve a
8 positive balance in the federal Highway Trust Fund; and

9 WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office reports the
10 federal Highway Trust Fund will be unable to support any new
11 highway or public transportation spending in the 2015 fiscal year
12 absent congressional action to increase trust fund revenues; and

13 WHEREAS, Eliminating federal highway and public
14 transportation investment in one year would threaten hundreds of
15 thousands of jobs nationwide and severely disrupt California's
16 long-term transportation improvement plans; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
19 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges timely action by the
20 President and the Congress of the United States to stabilize the
21 federal Highway Trust Fund by developing a long-term plan to
22 promote adequate federal Highway Trust Fund revenues that
23 achieves all of the following:

24 (a) Continues an appropriate role for the federal government in
25 sustaining a viable national transportation system.

26 (b) Contributes to deficit reductions and economic growth.

27 (c) Ensures the integrity of the surface transportation program
28 and resists funding diversions that have been harmful to public
29 support.

30 (d) Allows the Congress to pass a reauthorization of the federal
31 highway and public transportation programs before MAP-21
32 expires; and be it further

33 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
34 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
35 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
36 Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from
37 California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author
38 for appropriate distribution.

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