

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: March 26, 2007
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 898
AUTHOR: J. Simitian

BILL SUMMARY: Beverage Containers: Solid Waste Cleanup

This bill would: (1) add new abbreviation codes for rigid plastic bottles and containers made with polylactic acid, and (2) require the Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board), in coordination with the Department of Boating and Waterways (Boating) and the Department of Fish and Game (Fish and Game), to recommend guidelines and programs to remove and dispose of abandoned fishing gear at harbors and marinas.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Conservation (Conservation) indicates this bill would have an initial cost \$127,000 Beverage Container Recycling Fund for the additional abbreviations required for bottles and containers being recycled. Included in these costs are market research, modifications to the current data management systems and reporting documents, printing, participation notification, and staff for customer service duties. Ongoing costs are estimated to be minor.

Costs to the Waste Board to develop recommendations for the removal of abandoned fishing gear are unknown, but are estimated to be minor. Costs to Boating and Fish and Game to coordinate with the Waste Board would be absorbable.

COMMENTS

Finance opposes this bill because it is unnecessary. There is currently only one company manufacturing water bottles using biodegradable plastic material, and the addition of the new codes will not change the recycling attribute of the bottle. Furthermore, Boating is already implementing a Boating Clean and Green campaign under which guidelines (Toolkit) have been developed for environmentally sound operations, including the recycling of fishing line as well as other materials.

Existing law requires plastic bottles to be labeled with a code indicating the type of plastic material that is being used. Biodegradable plastic bottles are not recyclable and are currently coded with the number "7", which stands for "other" and is used for non-recyclable containers. Typically, non-recyclable containers are perceived by the public as not being "environmentally friendly". This bill would add codes "0" and "PLA" to the list of abbreviations required for rigid plastic bottles and containers, which could improve the environmental image of non-recyclable biodegradable containers. We note that there is no infrastructure in place to process these bottles so they end up in landfill where they biodegrade.

The bill would also require the Waste Board to develop recommendations for the removal of abandoned fishing gear. We note that Boating already has a Boating Clean and Green campaign, as well as a program in place for collecting fishing line. This program started as a pilot in the Delta, with Contra Costa County as a lead, and the program has been so successful it will expand throughout the entire Delta region.

(Continued)

Analyst/Principal (0635) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
-------------------------------------	------	--------------------------------------	------

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

BILL NUMBER

J. Simitian

March 26, 2007

SB 898

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2006-2007	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	
3480/Conservation	SO	No		--	C	\$127		--	0133
3910/Waste Mgmt	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0387
3680/Boat & Water	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0516
3600/Dept FishGam	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0200

<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
0133	Beverage Container Recycling Fund, CA
0200	Fish and Game Preservation Fund
0387	Integrated Waste Management Account
0516	Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund