

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 9, 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), the Department of Fish and Game (Fish and Game), and the California Coastal Commission to recommend guidelines and programs, by July 1, 2008, to remove and dispose of abandoned fishing gear in the marine waters of the state. The bill would also clarify a condition for use of the Waste Board's solid waste disposal site cleanup grant program funds.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Conservation (Conservation) indicates this bill would have an initial cost of \$127,000 Beverage Container Recycling Fund for the additional abbreviations required for bottles and containers. Included in this cost 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, Boating and Waterways, Fish and Game, and the California Coastal Commission to develop the recommendations would be minor and absorbable.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the March 26, 2007 version are minor and do not alter our position. The bill has been amended to include the California Coastal Commission as one of the parties to be consulted in determining the guidelines for abandoned fishing gear disposal. The bill has also been amended to provide a due date for the recommendations no later than July 1, 2008, and to specify that the guidelines will apply to "marine waters of the state" rather than "marinas and harbors".

COMMENTS

Finance opposes this bill because it is unnecessary. The bill would also impose one-time costs not reflected in the Administration's budget proposal. There is currently only one company manufacturing water bottles using biodegradable plastic material. The addition of the new codes will not change the recycling attribute of the bottle. 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 identifying the type of plastic of which it is composed. Biodegradable plastic bottles are not recyclable and are currently coded with the number "7". The number "7" stands for "other" and is used for non-recyclable containers. Typically, non-recyclable containers are perceived by the public as not being "environmentally friendly".

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Analyst/Principal (0623) T. Tatosian	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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

J. Simitian

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SB 898

COMMENTS (continued)

This bill would add codes "0" and "PLA" to the list of required abbreviations, which could improve the environmental image of non-recyclable biodegradable containers. There is no infrastructure in place to process these bottles so they end up in landfills 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. The program has been successful and will be expanded throughout the entire Delta region.

The bill would also clarify that one of the conditions for use of part of the Waste Board's solid waste disposal site cleanup grant program funds is the mitigation of solid waste that would otherwise be disposed into the municipal storm sewer.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)								
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2007-2008 FC	2008-2009 FC	2009-2010 FC	2009-2010 FC			
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	
3720/Coastal Comm	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----			0001	

<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
0001	General Fund
0133	Beverage Container Recycling Fund, CA
0200	Fish and Game Preservation Fund
0387	Integrated Waste Management Account
0516	Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund