

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: January 13, 2010
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: Amador County Transportation Commission

BILL NUMBER: AB 584
AUTHOR: A. Huber

BILL SUMMARY: Neighborhood Electric Vehicles

Until January 1, 2016, this bill would allow Amador County and the cities of Jackson, Sutter Creek and Amador City to establish Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) transportation plans. The bill would require a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2015.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill does not create a reimbursable State mandate because adoption of NEV transportation plans are discretionary. There may be minor costs to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to review and approve inclusion of some State highways within NEV transportation plan areas.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral because the bill establishes a time-limited pilot similar to other pilots previously approved. Additionally, this bill includes appropriate safeguards that would ensure Caltrans has the authority to review and approve the inclusion of any State highway within an NEV transportation plan.

Analyst/Principal (0740) K. Amann	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
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BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

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ANALYSIS**A. Programmatic Analysis**

Current State law authorizes cities and counties to establish golf cart transportation plans. Unlike golf carts, NEVs are subject to the same rules and regulations governing motor vehicles and are registered as motor vehicles with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Current law provides for pilot projects for Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) transportation plans for a limited number of communities.

Current law regarding golf cart transportation plans includes provisions for separate lanes, road markings, signage, and parking. Cities and counties may acquire real property and easements to establish golf cart lanes. They may also set minimum design criteria for golf carts and minimum safety criteria.

Current federal law provides that low speed vehicles can be driven on public roads with posted speeds of 35 miles per hour or less. Federal law sets specific safety standards for NEVs.

Until January 1, 2016, this bill would allow Amador County and the cities of Jackson, Sutter Creek and Amador City to establish Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) transportation plans. Additionally, the bill would:

- Require the plan to be reviewed by local law enforcement and the Amador County Transportation Commission; require approval of Caltrans for inclusion or use of state highways in the plan.
- Require the plan to identify NEV routes, provide for NEV facilities (separate lanes, trails, street crossings, parking, charging stations, signage), and establish minimum design criteria for separated NEV lanes.
- Exempt NEVs in the plan area from the prohibition of NEV on streets with speed limits in excess of 35 miles per hour.
- Require a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2015 which includes an evaluation of the effectiveness of the NEV transportation plan, including traffic flows and safety, along with a recommendation as to whether the authority for the NEV transportation plan should terminate.

Prior Legislation: Chapter 422/2004 (AB 2353/Leslie), as extended by Chapter 199/2008 (AB 2963/Gaines) authorized pilot NEV plans for the cities of Lincoln and Rocklin in Placer County through 2012. The City of Lincoln adopted its plan in August 2006 and submitted their report to the Legislature in 2009. Rocklin adopted their plan in 2007 and their report to the Legislature is due January 1, 2011.

Chapter 442, Statutes of 2007 (SB 956/Correa) also authorized a pilot NEV plan for the Ranch Planned Community in Orange County. That pilot expires January 1, 2013.

B. Fiscal Analysis

Costs to implement the plan would generally be borne by the local entities, but since implementation is discretionary, it does not impose a reimbursable mandate. There may be minor costs to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to review and approve inclusion of some State highways within NEV transportation plan areas.

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	
2660/Caltrans	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0042
8885/Comm St Mndt	UN	No		----- See Fiscal Summary -----					0001

<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
0001	General Fund
0042	Highway Account, State, STF

