

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 1116
AUTHOR: P. Fong
RELATED BILLS: AB 611 (Fong, 2010)

BILL SUMMARY: Limited English Proficiency Populations

This bill would require the Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to consider the multiple languages and needs of populations who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and to incorporate their needs in emergency preparedness planning, response, and recovery training.

This bill is a reintroduction of AB 611 (Fong) from the 2009-10 legislative session, which was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger because it was viewed as unnecessary.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Cal EMA does not anticipate any costs related to the provisions of this bill.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this measure because it is unnecessary. The Cal EMA already considers the needs of LEP populations when revising and preparing emergency preparedness materials, and the Secretary of Cal EMA has the authority to include LEP populations within all phases of emergency management.

Existing law:

- Establishes the Cal EMA and sets forth the duties and authority of the Cal EMA in overseeing and coordinating various emergency response programs in the state.
Provides that the Secretary of the Cal EMA is responsible for coordinating the emergency activities of all state agencies in connection with a state emergency.
Requires the Cal EMA to develop model guidelines for local government agencies and community-based organizations planning to develop a disaster registry program.
Requires the Secretary of the Cal EMA to appoint representatives of the disabled community to serve on Standardized Emergency Management System committees to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are being incorporated into emergency planning and procedures.
Defines a "bilingual person" as a person who is proficient in both the English language and the foreign language to be used.
Defines "a sufficient number of qualified bilingual persons in public contact positions" as the number required to provide the same level of services to non-English-speaking persons as is available to English-speaking persons seeking services.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Cal EMA to consider the multiple languages and needs of populations who have LEP and to incorporate their needs in emergency preparedness planning, response,

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

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and recovery training. This bill would also require the Cal EMA to collaborate with ethnic media and ethnic community-based organizations in developing communication strategies about alert and warning information, and to use a registry of qualified bilingual persons in public contact positions, as defined, to assist in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery as the Secretary deems necessary.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	
0690/Cal EMA	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0001