

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 13, 2011
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 913
AUTHOR: M. Feuer

BILL SUMMARY: Hazardous Waste: Source Reduction

Existing law requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to establish a program for hazardous waste source reduction, including requiring specified generators of hazardous waste to maintain certain plans and reports about hazardous waste reduction practices. DTSC also is required to provide source reduction training and resources to various regional and local government assistance programs to identify and apply source reduction methods.

This bill would require DTSC, as part of its source reduction efforts, to develop a California Green Business Program providing for voluntary certification of businesses adopting environmentally preferable business practices. These practices, would include, but not be limited to, increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting water conservation, and reducing waste generation.

FISCAL SUMMARY

According to DTSC, the bill would codify existing DTSC efforts and practice in statute. Therefore, DTSC does not anticipate additional costs from the bill's provisions.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill, because the bill would codify existing practice, thereby requiring heretofore discretionary program activities. Given budget constraints, it may be imprudent to authorize increased permanent responsibilities on state government at this time.

The bill is intended to promote green business certification programs to increase the efficiency of state operations by creating partnerships between small businesses, utility providers, efficiency upgrade operators, and state, local and federal regulators. The bill would build upon the California Green Business Program by promoting standardization among green business programs across the state, assisting local governments to build new programs, and providing program coordinators with technical guidance for updating and designing standards. The California Green Business Program is a network of local government agencies working with DTSC to help companies switch to green business practices. Businesses earn a seal of certification from local city or county government by meeting criteria established by the California Green Business Program.

Existing law requires DTSC to develop outreach materials and create pollution prevention technical guidance, checklists, and training manuals used by businesses for source reduction. DTSC also provides required training and information to Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs), small business development corporations, and business environmental assistance centers. This bill would require DTSC, as part of its efforts to provide source reduction training and resources, to develop a California Green Business Program with specified components providing for voluntary certification of businesses adopting environmentally preferable business practices.

(Continued)

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
(0623) J. McGuinn Karen Finn

Department Deputy Director Date

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

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**COMMENTS - Continued**

Specifically, the bill would require the California Green Business Program to do the following:

- Assist the statewide local government programs network to create program consistency.
- Support statewide database development and maintenance to register businesses and track pollution reductions and cost savings.
- Solicit local participation and facilitate new program development.
- Develop technical guidance on pollution prevention measures.
- Conduct industry studies and pilot projects, and provide policy coordination.
- Collaborate with relevant state agencies that operate small business efficiency and economic development programs, including, but not limited to, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the Public Utilities Commission, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Water Resources.

The bill also would make a number of findings acknowledging the current efforts and activities of California's Green Business Program.

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	
3960/ToxicSubCtrl	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0014
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0014	Hazardous Waste Control Account								