



AB 1141 AC TRANSIT DISTRICT

THIS BILL

AB 1141 updates the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District's authorizing statutes with respect to transitioning to an all-ward election system, reinstating when terms in office begin for Directors, and standardizing when inflation adjustments are made to Directors compensation.

BACKGROUND

The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) is a public transit agency designated as a special district. The authorizing statute that created the AC Transit was enacted in 1955. As a special district, AC Transit is governed by an independently elected board of directors and has substantial administrative and fiscal independence. Existing law vests the government of the AC Transit district in a board of directors comprised of seven directors, one from each ward and two elected at large.

On July 26, 2023, in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, the AC Transit Board adopted a Resolution declaring its intent to transition to a solely ward-based election system. The Board conducted public outreach and hearings over several months to draw a new district map with seven wards, and [on December 12, 2023, passed an Ordinance](#) to redistrict and transition to an all-ward Board.

PROBLEM

Existing law is outdated and does not reflect the changes made in 2023. It also references obsolete provisions pertaining to the formation election which occurred in 1956.

Under existing law, the board of directors is authorized to adjust monthly compensation based upon inflation for each calendar year following the last adjustment,

and prohibits the adjustment from becoming effective until the next regular election of the directors following adoption of the adjustment. This system does not reflect current rates of inflation and is more difficult to budget for.

SOLUTION

AB 1141 would update existing laws to reflect the District's decision to be comprised of seven directors elected from seven wards. The decision would reduce election costs and improve resident representation.

This bill would also remove language in the code pertaining to the formation election. It would also change the effective date of a Director's term of office to the first Monday after the first day of January as originally intended by Transit District Law. This change helps in transitioning new members onto the Board and allows additional time to receive the Certified Election Results from the Registrar of Voters.

This bill would authorize the board to adjust the monthly compensation based upon the percentage increase in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous calendar year, and make the adjustment effective on the first day of the new fiscal year following its adoption. This system would result in CPI adjustments that are more predictable and occur on a regular schedule. These changes would also reduce the administrative burden monitoring the publication of annual CPI calculations.

SUPPORT

AC Transit (Sponsor)

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