

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

AB 2367 (Lee) – As Amended March 19, 2024

SUBJECT: Highways: supplemental destination signs: state special schools.

SUMMARY: Requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the next revision of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to allow supplemental destination signs for state special schools with a minimum enrollment of 300 pupils and located within five miles of the highway.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Vests Caltrans with full possession and control of all state highways. (Streets and Highways Code (SHC) Section 90)
- 2) Requires Caltrans to adopt rules and regulations prescribing uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices including, but not limited to, stop signs, yield right-of-way signs, speed restriction signs, railroad warning approach signs, street name signs, lines and markings on the roadway, and stock crossing signs. (Vehicle Code Section 21400)
- 3) Requires Caltrans to keep and repair all objects or markers adjacent to a state highway that have been erected to mark registered historical places. (SHC 101.12)
- 4) Requires Caltrans erect generic directional signs, at appropriate locations, on state highway routes, directing motorists to each veterans home of California. (SHC 101.13)
- 5) Requires Caltrans to amend, in the next addition or revision, the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to allow supplemental destination signs for publicly owned and private nonprofit museums that have minimum annual attendance of 50,000 people and that are within five miles from the highway. (SHC 101.18)
- 6) State run schools for the deaf and schools for the blind also provide intensive, disability-specific educational services for pupils who are blind, visually impaired, and deaf. (Education Code 59001 and 59100)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: According to the MUTCD, the purpose of traffic control devices is to promote highway safety and efficiency by providing for the orderly movement of all road users on streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel throughout the nation.

According to the most recent update to the MUTCD, general information signs are of interest to the traveler, though not directly necessary for guidance. They include such items as state lines, city limits, other political boundaries, time zones, stream names, elevations, landmarks, and similar items of geographical interest, and safety and transportation-related messages. General information signs should not be installed within a series of guide signs or at other equally critical

locations, unless there are specific reasons for orienting the road user or identifying control points for activities that are clearly in the public interest. On all such signs, the designs should be simple and dignified, devoid of any advertising, and in general compliance with other guide signing.

Below are examples of general information signs included in the most recent MUTCD. There is currently no criteria for signs for special schools in the MUTCD.

Figure 2H-1 (CA). General Information and Miscellaneous Information Signs



State Special Schools: The California Department of Education provides administrative oversight and support to three State Special Schools and three Diagnostic Centers in California. State run schools for the deaf and schools for the blind also provide intensive, disability-specific educational services for pupils who are blind, visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing pupils, or deaf-blind, ages three to 22.

The author of this bill represents the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, California. The school’s mission includes ensuring that its students have healthy deaf identities through shared experiences, language, culture, history, and society; achieve language competency in American Sign Language and English; be independent critical thinkers committed to lifelong learning; contribute to their community as advocates for rights and social justice; be literate and responsible with technology; and lead active healthy lives. Students have the opportunity to participate in athletics and the full-range of extracurricular activities. Education is provided without charge to the parents of students, with the state and the child’s home school district covering the costs.

By providing signage for these three schools on the highway this bill may increase awareness and attendance of these schools. It should be noted that an enactment of a piece of legislation is not the only way to achieve the goal of creating a designation for these schools, as Caltrans regularly facilitates a working group process for amendments to the MUTCD.

According to the author, “AB 2367 requires Caltrans to construct and maintain generic directional highway signs for the California School for the Deaf in Fremont. By placing directional highway signs for the Fremont school, the state reaffirms its commitment to this state school and recognizes the invaluable work provided to and by the state’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities.”

In support, Disability Rights California writes, “This bill will require directional signage to be installed on roadways adjacent to the California School for the Deaf and the California School for the Blind. These historic schools serve a vital role in the education and societal inclusion of students with these disabilities and the public should have a greater understanding of how to get there... Given the importance of these schools to the State of California, DRC urges your support of AB 2367.”

Previous legislation. AB 1320 (Hoover), Chapter 127, Statutes of 2023 requires Caltrans to amend, in the next addition or revision, the MUTCD to allow supplemental destination signs for publicly owned and private nonprofit museums that have minimum annual attendance of 50,000 people and that are within five miles from the highway.

AB 178 (Gaines), Chapter 131, Statutes of 2013 requires Caltrans to allow the placement of business logo signs along State Highway Route 65 within, or at exits leading to, the City of Lincoln.

SB 842 (Knight), Chapter 654, Statutes of 2014 requires Caltrans erect generic directional signs, at appropriate locations, on state highway routes, directing motorists to each veterans home of California.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Disability Rights California

Opposition

None on file

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