

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 3135 (Frazier)

As Amended August 6, 2018

Majority vote

ASSEMBLY:

SENATE:

Original Committee Reference: **TRANS.**

**SUMMARY:** Requires the Governor to include in his annual state budget proposal funding for additional California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers over five fiscal years, as specified.

**The Senate amendments** delete the Assembly version of the bill and instead:

- 1) Require the Governor to include in his annual budget proposal, for fiscal years 2019-20 to 2023-24 inclusive, funding and position authority for an additional 120 approved officer positions each fiscal year.
- 2) Prioritize revenues deposited into the Motor Vehicle Account (MVA) for the state administration and enforcement of laws regulating the use, operation, or registration of vehicles used on the public streets and highways, including traffic enforcement.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes CHP to enforce all laws regulating the operation of vehicles and the use of the highways.
- 2) Imposes certain registration fees on vehicles, with revenues from these fees deposited into the MVA and used, among other things, to fund the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and CHP.
- 3) Restricts, pursuant to Article 19 of the California Constitution, the expenditure of revenues from fees and taxes imposed by the state on vehicles or their use or operation to state administration and enforcement of laws regulating the use, operation, or registration of vehicles used on the public streets and highways, including the enforcement of traffic and vehicle laws by state agencies and the mitigation of the environmental effects of motor vehicle operation due to air and sound emissions.
- 4) Through budget appropriations, annually redirects significant sums of funding in the MVA to other purposes, such as roughly \$130 million to the California Air Resources Board and \$90 million to the General Fund.

**AS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY, this bill** authorized the California High-Speed Rail Authority to contract with CHP to provide any necessary security services for property purchased by the state for future high-speed rail right-of-way.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the addition of 120 additional CHP officers each year for the next five years would result in additional expenditures of approximately \$26.4 million in 2019-20, \$52.8 million in 2020-21, \$79.2 million in 2021-22, \$105.6 million in 2022-23, and \$132 million annually thereafter. (Motor Vehicle Account)

**COMMENTS:** The relationship between increased officer patrolling/enforcement and reductions in vehicle accidents has been widely reported. As far back as 2005, the Legislative Analyst's Office reported that, in regards to safety enhancing proactive patrols, increases in the number of traffic accidents combined with relatively little growth in road patrol staffing have resulted in officers spending increasing amounts of their work hours responding to accidents rather than conducting proactive patrols and providing enforcement and other safety-related services that aim to reduce accidents. Another recent study, conducted in Fresno, California, found that increased traffic enforcement decreased the number of motor vehicle collisions, crash fatalities, and fatalities related to speed.

Since 2010, California's population has increased 8%, while registered vehicles and licensed drivers in the state have increased over 11%. Meanwhile, the number of approved officer positions in CHP enforcing traffic laws on our highways has decreased 7%. In that same time, the number of crashes on the state highway system has increased 29%, and the fatality rate per mile driven has increased 27%. For the 2016 calendar year, CHP reported that 3,839 persons were killed in vehicle accidents, and 278,169 persons were injured in California.

CHP notes that 507 authorized officer positions were cut during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years as a part of the Governor's across-the-board 5% reduction in the state work force during the recession, and none of those positions has been restored. This bill is intended to restore those cuts and enhance CHP's budget to increase public safety.

According to the author, "For too long, the administration has used for other purposes the funding meant for ensuring our safe roads. AB 3135 requires the administration to acknowledge the state's need for CHP officers and to fund them first from the monies intended for this purpose. If we don't act now, our roads will continue to grow less safe and more people will needlessly die on our highways."

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