

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Jim Frazier, Chair
AB 1442 (Luz Rivas) – As Introduced February 22, 2019

SUBJECT: California Transportation Commission

SUMMARY: Authorizes rather than requires the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to create four specific committees related to historical governmental structures.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the 13-member CTC and provides that the commission is responsible for appointing an executive director who is to serve at the pleasure of the commission.
- 2) Directs the CTC to advise and assist the Secretary of Transportation and the Legislature in formulating and evaluating state policies and plans for transportation programs in the state.
- 3) Requires CTC to organize itself into at least the following four committees:
 - a) The Committee on Aeronautics, which shall consider issues related to aeronautics;
 - b) The Committee on Streets and Highways, which shall consider issues related to streets and highways;
 - c) The Committee on Mass Transportation, which shall consider issues related to the movement of groups of people within urban areas, and between rural communities and between cities; and
 - d) The Committee on Planning, which shall be responsible for transportation planning issues.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: The Legislature originally created CTC in 1978 as a result of concerns that the state lacked a single, unified transportation policy. The 13-member Commission oversees and coordinates the activities of the state's transportation sector, including planning and allocating money for the construction of highway, rail, and transit improvements throughout California. CTC also advises and assists the Secretary of the California Transportation Agency and the Legislature in formulating and evaluating state policies and plans for California's transportation programs.

In creating CTC, the Legislature combined a number of state transportation boards and commissions, in order to consolidate state transportation planning and funding and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of developing and constructing the state's system. Not everyone was happy about the new commission, as stakeholders of particular transportation sectors were concerned that their interests would be subordinated by the loss of their boards. In order to address the needs of the stakeholders of the consolidated boards, the Legislature required CTC to

organize itself into four committees related to aeronautics, streets and highways, mass transportation, and planning to reflect the former boards.

While these focus areas were important at the time, the transportation world has changed dramatically in the last 40 years. The state is less involved in aeronautics and mass transportation, but plays a larger role in transportation technology as well as air quality and emission reductions. At this point, it is unclear whether CTC should continue to organize itself into the four committees outlined in statute or should adopt some other arrangement. This bill seeks to give CTC more flexibility in the formation of its committees and therefore be more responsive to the challenges of today's transportation world.

According to the author, "This proposal creates flexibility for CTC to organize itself into committees it thinks are most salient to today's needs and challenges. Forty years is a long time to hold on to the same priorities; it seems reasonable for the Legislature to reduce the constraints in existing law and provide the flexibility CTC needs to be relevant in today's changing world."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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