

Date of Hearing: May 4, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 2006 (Fong) – As Introduced January 28, 2020

**SUBJECT:** State Highways: relinquishment: State Highway Route 184

**SUMMARY:** Allows the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the County of Kern and the City of Bakersfield a portion of State Route (SR) 184. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes CTC, upon determining it is in the best interest of the state and upon an agreement being reached between the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the County of Kern and the City of Bakersfield, to relinquish a portion of SR 184 to the respective jurisdictions.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Defines a “state highway” as any roadway that is acquired, laid out, constructed, improved, or maintained as a state highway pursuant to constitutional or legislative authorization.
- 2) Statutorily identifies state highway system routes.
- 3) Specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature that the prescribed routes of the state highway system connect communities and regions of the state and that they serve the state’s economy by connecting centers of commerce, industry, agriculture, mineral wealth, and recreation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** Each session, numerous bills authorizing CTC to relinquish segments of the state highway to local jurisdictions are passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Relinquishment transactions are generally preceded by a negotiation of terms and conditions between the local jurisdiction and Caltrans. Once an agreement has been established, the Legislature authorizes CTC to relinquish the segment, and CTC then approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via resolution. The final step is for the Legislature to delete these segments from current law.

This bill is consistent with Caltrans' policy encouraging the relinquishment of state highways that do not serve regional or statewide transportation needs. Recipient agencies often seek relinquishment of state highways so that they can have greater control over the facility, which often serves as a local street.

SR 184 is a 14.3-mile long primary arterial that runs North and South between SR 223 and SR 178 in unincorporated Kern County and Bakersfield. This bill seeks to relinquish a 4.1 mile segment of this route that according to the author operates as a local road.

According to the author, “this bill will provide greater flexibility to the City of Bakersfield, the County of Kern, and the Kern Council of Governments to better maintain SR 184. Functionally, the current highway has operated as a local road for a number of years. This bill would allow for quicker responses to safety concerns through local control of the roadway.”

The County of Kern writes in support, “in recent years, safety has increasingly become a topic of local concern along SR 184, particularly given the amount of traffic accidents that have occurred along this segment. Despite the known safety concerns and community pressure for improvements, Caltrans has been slow to address the various issues along the road.”

*Related legislation:* SB 757 (Allen) authorizes CTC to relinquish portions of the state highway system to a county or city without legislative action. This bill is at the Assembly Desk.

*Previous legislation:* AB 1115 (Salas), Chapter 221, Statutes of 2016, designated a portion of SR 184 in Kern County as a school zone.

AB 1764 (Salas) of 2018 would have authorized the CTC to relinquish SR 184 in its entirety. AB 1764 was held in the Assembly Appropriations committee.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

County of Kern  
Kern Council of Governments

**Opposition**

None on file

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