

Date of Hearing: April 9, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 2272 (Mayes) – As Amended April 2, 2018

**SUBJECT:** State highways: relinquishment

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the City of Palm Springs any portion or the entirety of State Route (SR) 111 within the city's limits. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes CTC to relinquish to the City of Palm Springs any portion, or the entirety of SR 111 within city limits, upon terms and conditions CTC finds to be in the best interest of the state.
- 2) Provides that the relinquishment will become effective immediately following recordation of the relinquishment resolution.
- 3) Specifies that following the effective date of relinquishment, the relinquished segments will no longer be state highways and may not be considered for future adoption as state highways.
- 4) Requires the City of Palm Springs to maintain signage directing motorists to the continuation of SR 111.

**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.
- 4) Provides for a two-step state highway relinquishment process allowing for the deletion of sections of the state highway system beginning with the Legislature amending existing law to allow for the state highway segment to be deleted and culminating with the CTC making a finding that it is in the best interest of the state to delete a specified portion of roadway from the system.
- 5) Relinquishes former portions of SR 111 within the unincorporated area of Riverside County, as well as within the Cities of Coachella, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Cathedral City, and requires all these jurisdictions to maintain signage directing motorists to the continuation of SR 111 and ensure the continuity of traffic flow.

**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 the California Department of Transportation (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 111 is a 134-mile long highway that generally runs North and South through Riverside and Imperial Counties between Interstate 10 near Palm Springs, past the Salton Sea, and eventually ends at the Mexico border in Calexico.

According to the supporter of the bill, the City of Palm Springs, SR 111 has been relinquished by the state to all the other incorporated cities within the Coachella Valley; as the last remaining incorporated city with SR 111 extending through it, this bill will provide for the city to obtain control of this urban section of the highway in the same way as the other cities within the Coachella Valley.

*Previous legislation:* AB 2679 (Committee on Transportation), Chapter 769, Statutes of 2012, clarified existing law related to other relinquished portions of SR 111.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

City of Palm Springs

**Opposition**

None on file

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