

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 15, 2020

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2020

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2019

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1350

Introduced by Assembly Member Gonzalez
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chu, Gipson, and Nazarian)

February 22, 2019

An act to add Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 99100) to Part 11 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1350, as amended, Gonzalez. Free youth transit passes: eligibility for state funding.

Existing law declares that the fostering, continuance, and development of public transportation systems are a matter of state concern. Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to administer various programs and allocates moneys for various public transportation purposes.

This bill would require transit agencies to offer free youth transit passes to persons ~~under~~ 18 years of age *and under* in order to be eligible for state funding under the Mills-Deddeh Transit Development Act, the State Transit Assistance Program, or the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. The bill would also require a free youth transit pass to count as a full price fare for purposes of calculating the ratio of fare revenues to operating costs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Global climate change poses a serious threat to the economic
4 well-being, public health, natural resources, and ~~the~~ environment
5 of California.

6 (b) Greenhouse gas emissions that have been exacerbated by
7 human activity play a central role in accelerating adverse climate
8 change outcomes.

9 (c) California laws and regulations for reducing greenhouse gas
10 emissions address one of the most important issues of our time,
11 and increasing the use of public transportation is a vital component
12 in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year
13 2050.

14 (d) In addition to contributing to California’s climate goals,
15 public transportation systems provide an essential public service
16 to all of the people of the state, including elderly, disabled, youth,
17 and citizens of limited means. Providing programs that develop
18 ridership and adoption of public transit help contribute to achieving
19 established statewide climate goals.

20 (e) Student transit pass programs have been shown to increase
21 overall transit ridership and fill empty seats on trains and buses,
22 resulting in reduced costs per rider and improved service because
23 of higher demand.

24 (f) Targeting student transit pass programs to middle school,
25 high school, college, and university students can promote the
26 development of lifelong transit riders and further bolster the
27 capacity and reliability of transit systems.

28 (g) Transit pass programs in this state and across the country
29 have resulted in significant increases in transit ridership and have
30 made it easier and cheaper for students to get to schools and jobs.

31 (h) Student transit pass programs can help the state reduce
32 greenhouse gas emissions, vehicle miles traveled, petroleum use,
33 air pollution, and improve overall community health.

34 (i) Student transit pass programs can lower pollution around
35 elementary schools, thereby improving student health.

36 (j) Schools are often a major generator of traffic in cities, and
37 student transit pass programs can help reduce the traffic and
38 parking problems in neighborhoods around schools.

1 (k) Student transit pass programs can reduce the need for
2 colleges to use campus land for expensive parking structures when
3 this land and money could be better used for educational purposes.

4 (l) Student transit pass programs have decreased the necessity
5 of, and costs associated with, driving to and from school, thereby
6 reducing the overall cost of school attendance and the parental
7 burdens on working families.

8 (m) A University of California at Los Angeles study of 35
9 college and university student transit pass programs across the
10 United States in 2001 showed ridership increases of 71 to 200
11 percent after the implementation of these programs.

12 SEC. 2. Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 99100) is added
13 to Part 11 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

14
15 CHAPTER 2. FREE YOUTH TRANSIT PASSES

16
17 99100. Notwithstanding any other law, a transit agency shall
18 offer free youth transit passes to persons ~~under~~ 18 years of age
19 *and under* in order to be eligible for state funding under the
20 Mills-Deddeh Transit Development Act (Division 11 (commencing
21 with Section 120000)), the State Transit Assistance Program
22 described in subdivision (a) of Section 99312.2, or the Low Carbon
23 Transit Operations Program created by Part 3 (commencing with
24 Section 75230) of Division 44 of the Public Resources Code.

25 99101. A free youth transit pass provided pursuant to Section
26 99100 shall count as a full price fare for purposes of calculating
27 the ratio of fare revenues to operating costs.