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For Approval

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**Agenda for
March 18, 2024 via Zoom**
(Agenda item order subject to change)

1. **Opening Welcome**
2. **Approval of February Minutes:** Attached to Agenda package;
3. **Guest Speaker:** Stephanie Molen and Raymond Acevedo from Metro; PowerPoint presentation ESFV LRT, impact of businesses along the Van Nuys Blvd rail line; Brief status of other projects in the Valley, *(20-25 minutes)*;
4. **Rep reports:** Social Security tax, Federal AB5, Digital billboards, state employee bills, Yusef Robb, rail line through Sepulveda Pass; Valley digital display areas;
5. **Chair Reports:**
6. **Chamber Announcements:**
7. **Open Discussion:** If time permits,
8. **Adjournment**

Next Government Affairs Meeting
April 15, 2024



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Present: Richard Fisk, Florine Goodman, Varant Majarian, Sharon Bronson, Scott Krassner, Annie Nepomuceno, Mike Stafford, Jill Kline, Jeanette Capaldi, Cindy Cleghorn, Horace Heidt, Paula Cracium, David Honda, Sherry Keowen, David Phelps, Dennis Zine, Kris Hough, Denise Kniter, Diana Oganessian, Tami Stephens, Vickie Bourdas-Martinez, Allen Budzichowski, Bonnie Bursk, Jheri Heetland, Les Himes, Nicole Kato, Bonnie Lallouz, Julie Leyba, Stephanie Molen, Nick Montano, Jose Rodriguez, Tammy Scher, Denny Schneider, Maria Skelton, Alex, Torres, John Popoch, James Roy, Anne-Marie Williams

GUEST: ALEX TORRES (Policy Advisor/Advocate for the Law Offices of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck)

Call to Order: Richard Fisk called the meeting to order at: 12:02 p.m.

Minutes: January 8, 2024: Richard asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Government Affairs Minutes from January 8, 2024, as there were none,

Minutes were approved by all as submitted

RICHARD FISK (GA CHAIR)

Richard gave his “today in history” reminder: 1870 Utah become the second territory in the United States to pass a law allowing women the right to vote, after Wyoming in 1869. Also, on this date in 1909 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) forms “Black History Month”.

SCOTT KASSNER (GA CO-CHAIR)

Scott introduced Alex Torres, Policy Advisor/Advocate at the Sacramento office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. Alex has diverse specific skills in legislative and regulatory advocacy, political analysis, and policy legal research. Most recently he served as director of government relations for the Bay Area Council, a business association in the San Francisco Bay Area representing over 320 of the region’s largest employers on economic development issues.

ALEX TORRES (LAW OFFICES OF BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK)

Alex shared that most business share similar types of concerns. One of those is currently the 2024 State Budget. The Department of Finance has predicted a significant Budget deficit, which may continue for the next two years. Governor Newsom is trying not to raise taxes to cover the deficit as the thought is “you cannot tax the way out of a deficit.

There is also a concern about the investment in infrastructure, expediting energy and other projects.

The Legislature can still introduce tax increases, but the hope is that will not happen, Alex stated. The deadline for introducing bills is February 16, 2024.

Alex mentioned two bills

1. Unemployment Insurance (which has a \$20 billion dollar deficit, much of it created during the Covid pandemic with all the fraudulent claims). EDD is being overhauled for better control. This system is paid for by the employer, not the employee. A suggestion is to raise the taxable base to employer and whether striking employees should be entitled to unemployment compensation.
2. Insurance availability and higher costs are also a discussion for legislation, considering the ability to even get insurance in California with so many Insurance companies leaving the state, or not writing policies such as Fire Insurance.

A question was asked as to what will make it easier to do business in California with the current concerns. Alex replied that he has not heard of any legislation to address this issue and it may not come up until after the 2024 March/November Elections and into 2025.

Alex did say that the ball is in the court of the Insurance Commissioner and what authority he has, along with the Legislature. Mention was also made as to the devastation looming regarding the very increasing homeowner’s insurance cost and availability, which could cause the State to crash, to which Alex concurred.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

JACOB GATTMAN & TAMI STEPHEN (CONGRESSMAN MIKE GARCIA)

Tami shared the support Congressman Garcia had for #7024 regarding the return of Tax Credits and the change of not allowing employees to sue franchise owners for issue that the Corporation regulates.

She stated he also supported the Social Security Fairness Act

Contact info: tami.stephens@mail.house.gov

JIM ROY (SENATOR MENJIVAR)

Jim reported that the Senator had introduced twenty bills this year which do not increase the Budget. They are related to Mental Health, Veterans Affairs, Foster Care Program, to mention a few.

Jim stated that they will bring more bills in the future that would be business related. He said that feedback from the Chambers, who have direct contact with the business world, would be a welcome benefit when deciding on what to include in business-friendly bills.

Contact info: james.roy@lacity.org

KRIS HOUGH (SENATOR SCOTT WILK)

Kris mentioned the following information on what Senator Wilk is working on or introducing to Congress:

1. On the Budget Committee
2. Introduced SB996 relating to Education Transparency to Parents -
3. SB1004 – Wildfire Settlement Tax as of Jan 1, 2020.
4. Problem solving caucus for crimes due to Prop 47
5. Recall of politicians –
6. Changing the voting age to seventeen.
7. Touring prisons and talking with prisoners.

A question was asked as to whether there are any bills pending to increase Law Enforcement. Kris said she would investigate that and come with that information to the next meeting.

Contact info: kris.hough@sen.ca.gov

DIANA OGANEYSYAN (SUPERVISOR BARGER)

Diana said that they are currently working on a program for Homeless for Seniors

Contact info: doganesyan@bos.lacounty.gov

STEPHANIE MOLEN (L.A. METRO)

Stephanie took questions regarding the status of the Metro System planned for Van Nuys Blvd and she stated that it is still in the Utility work phase. Also, a question regarding the Sepulveda Basin plan and she replied that it is still in the environmental review and should come out at the end of 2024 or early 2025.

A question regarding the frustration of trying to get through to anyone who can assist with issues, i.e., Chatsworth Metro Station. Stephanie said she would be the main point person of contact and will make sure messages and concerns get to the correct person to get help with the problem that is in question.

Contact info: molens@metro.net (213 7334257)

ANNE-MARIE WILLIAMS (L.A. COUNTY ASSESOR JEFFREY PRANG)

Homeowner exemptions are available but must be applied for.

For information contact: Anne-Marie Williams at 213 974 3010

DENISE KNITTER (MAYOR KAREN BASS)

Denise mentioned that the AI Fresco program launched 2/1/2024 and those that have a temporary permit must apply for a permanent permit by the end of July 2024.

A small business tax force is available. Contact Denise or Website for more information.

A question about the help for the cost for the AI Fresco permits, to which Denise stated that there will be grants available to those that were doing business during Covid with no safety checks.

Another question regarding help to developers and Denise replied that this is in discussion and suggested that questions or concerns should be sent to their office.

Also, the frustration of Pop-Up vs Brick and Mortar requirements was expressed and the fact that a threatened lawsuit from the Pop-Up businesses, caused the City to drop regulations of the Pop-Up. The City is working on a plan to correct this, Denise stated. Denise finished noting that anyone with issues regarding health, cleanliness etc. should contact her.

Contact info: denise.knitter@lacity.org

SHARON BRONSON (COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE)

Sharon mentioned that if you have signed up for CD12's Newsletter it includes a list of contacts for L.A. City services.

1. February 24 will be a cleanup on Devonshire from Mason to the 405 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2. LAHD Seminars regarding "Rent Increase"
3. 240077 – Motion regarding License Plate Readers will be used by law enforcement in tracking crimes.

Contact info: sharon.bronson@lacity.org

JILL KLINE & JOHN POPOCH (CD3 COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD)

John mentioned that there are incentives in the Police Budget to increase starting salary pay and retention bonus pay. Money is also being allocated to deter "Street Racing/Takeover." Also, an increase to the penalties to Organized Street Racing, a suggestion being "to take away the toy." John will bring updates on this issue to future meetings.

SB923 – bring penalties to 3 to 6 months in jail

Prop 1 – 6.3 billion dollars for "Unhoused Veterans". This would be managed by the state and not local government as to the use of these funds.

The subject of the ban on Rodeos was brought up as thought to be unfair and biased. John stated that Councilmember Blumenfield authored this bill and is not after all Rodeo Events, just ones that affect animal safety.

David Phelps asked that United Chambers take a position opposing the ban of Rodeos, after more information is given at the next UCC Government Affairs Meeting.

Contact info: john.popoch@lacity.org or Jill.kline@lacity.org

DENNY SCHNEIDER (VALLEY VOTE)

Denny gave a brief statement regarding Van Nuys and Burbank Airports and will bring more information to the next meeting.

MARIAN JOCZ (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

Marian reminded everyone of the D.A. Forum schedule for tomorrow at Shepherd Church from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She did say that the reservations had reached capacity and walk-ins are not being encouraged.

She also mentioned the State of the County / 2024 Board Installation coming up on March 21st, featuring Kathryn Barger and Lindsey Horvath giving the State of the County. It will be held at the Woodland Hills Country Club, and you must RSVP.

For more information contact: marian@unitedchambers.org

CHAMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chambers in attendance announced their upcoming events. These events are listed on Chamber calendars, and on the Grab and Go that is sent out weekly to a wide group of people. You can always contact the office to get more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Florine Goodman, Secretary

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING – Monday, MARCH 18, 2024

Legislation – March 2024

There are thousands of bills by the Senate and Assembly that are in the legislative process, some are “intent” bills with no details, some listed as budget bills, in committees, set for first reading or waiting for assignment, and some already passed by both houses and sent to the governor. Information on all committees, elected officials and state legislation can be found on the website.

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml> If you find any that should be on this list or feel we should take a formal position on, please let us know. Spring recess is March 22 through March 31.

AB 1043 (Essayli) This bill, among other provisions, would **prohibit** a person from contacting, soliciting, or initiating communication with an owner to **claim the surplus funds** from a foreclosure sale of the owner’s residence before 90 days after the trustee’s deed has been required. (Last year’s bill, Assembly motion March-07 to reconsider)

SB 400 (Wahab) This bill would clarify that this **confidentiality** does not prohibit an agency that formerly employed a **peace officer** or custodial officer from disclosing the termination for cause of that officer, as specified (Passed both houses, sent to governor Feb-27)

SB 263 (Dodd) An act relating to insurance. Revises and recasts, beginning January 1, 2025, provisions related to the standards and procedures for the recommendation of **annuity products**, including any recommendation to purchase, exchange, or replace an annuity. (Sent to governor Feb-23)

SB 923 (Archuleta) A **modification of Prop 47** that would revise the definition of shoplifting to require an intent to steal retail property or merchandise (Introduced Jan-11-24, set for hearing April-2)

AB 1772 (Ramos, Mathis, Valencia) This bill would among other provisions, revise the **definition of shoplifting** to require an intent to steal retail property or merchandise and would require a person convicted of petty theft or shoplifting, if the person has 2 or more prior convictions for specified theft-related offenses. If enacted by the legislators, would be put on the ballot for a vote. (Feb-5, re-referred to comm on Public Safety)

AB 1897 (Flora) This bill would require a court, whenever a defendant prevails in a civil action, to award reasonable **attorney’s fees** to a prevailing defendant against the plaintiff upon a finding by the court that the plaintiff’s prosecution of the action was not in good faith. (Feb-5; referred to Judiciary comm)

AB 1923 (Davies) This bill would establish the Green Assistance Program within the California Environmental Protection Agency to, among other things, **assist small businesses** and small nonprofit organizations in **applying for moneys** from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The bill would authorize the Secretary for Environmental Protection to apply for and accept grants or contributions of funds from any public or private source for the program (Feb-5; referred to Natural Resources comm)

AB 2294 (Schiavo) This bill would amend 2 sections of the Revenue and Taxation Code, expanding the definition of **qualified wages, qualified employee**, availability of the credit to businesses. Eliminate location requirement. (Introduced Feb 12, ref to comm)

AB 3106 (Schiavo) This bill would require an employer to ensure that COVID-19 cases, defined as persons who have a positive COVID-19 test, are excluded from the workplace until prescribed return-to-work requirements are met. The bill, with specified exceptions, would require an employer to continue and maintain an excluded **employee's earnings**, wages, seniority, and all other employee rights and benefits. Other provisions apply. (Introduced Feb 16, may be hear in comm March-18)

AB 2499 (Schiavo) Unlawful **employment practices: discrimination for time off**. Amends several provisions of existing law related to employee time off for jury duty, crime victims and witnesses, among other amendments. (Introduced Feb 13, ref to comm Feb-26)

SB 970 (Ashby) Amending Civil Code; Any person or entity that sells or provides access to any **artificial intelligence** technology that is designed to create any synthetic media shall provide a consumer warning that misuse of the technology may result in civil or criminal liability for the user. (Introduced Jan 25, ref to comm Feb-14)

SB 1071 (Dodd) Amends the Business and Professional Code to **exclude a licensed contractor** that has no employees from reporting on workers' compensation insurance. (Introduced Feb 12, ref to comm 2-21)

AB 1840 (Arambula) Existing law establishes the California Housing Finance Agency in the Department of Housing and Community Development, and authorizes the agency to make loans to finance affordable housing. This bill, among other things, says that an applicant **cannot be disqualified** solely based on **immigration status**. (Introduced Jan 16, ref to comm Feb-29)

Of Interest?

AB 2912 (Dixon) Gas Prices Act Would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, among other provisions, to post and update on its website, a monthly basis, the difference between **retail gasoline prices** in California and the national average. (Introduced Feb 15, may be heard in comm March-17)

SB 961 (Weiner) This bill would require certain vehicles, commencing with the 2027 model year, to be equipped with an intelligent speed limiter, that would **limit the speed of the vehicle to 10 miles per hour** over the speed limit. It would create a criminal offense imposing a state-mandated local program. (Introduced Jan 23, set for hearing April-9)

AB 3067 (Gipson) This bill would **require a residential insurer**, by January 1, 2026, to include questions on insurance applications regarding the presence and storage of any **firearms** kept in the household. Insurers would have to report this annually. (Introduced Feb 16, may be heard in comm March-18)

SB 1160 (Portantino) This bill would require every **firearm** in the state, except those specifically exempted, to be **annually registered** with the department. The bill would require the registrant to annually pay a fee. This bill would prohibit possession of an unregistered firearm, a violation of which would be punishable as an infraction. (Introduced Feb 14, set for hearing April-2)

SB 53 (Portantino) This bill would, beginning on July 1, 2025, prohibit a person from keeping or storing a firearm in a residence owned or controlled by that person unless the firearm is stored in safe that is listed on the Department of Justice's list of approved firearms safety devices and is properly engaged to render it inaccessible by any person other than the owner. The bill would make a first violation of this offense punishable as an infraction (Introduced Dec 5, 2022, In assy Jan-29-24 held at desk)

AB 2092 (Mathis) This bill would require the PUC to conduct a feasibility study on the impact of permitting the building of small modular **nuclear reactors** and to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2027. (Introduced Feb 5, ref to comm Feb-20)

SCA 2 (Stern; Menjivar is one of the co-authors) This measure would reduce the minimum voting age to 17 from the current 18 (Introduced Feb 16, 2023; Senate 3rd reading Feb-6-24)

City of Los Angeles Motions from the December thru March to date meeting agendas.

Many motions are requests for reports from other departments, with subsequent meetings referring the motion back and forth to committees or simply a meeting to formally accept a report. That is why motions can go on for years (as noted with the first 2 digits of the motion number) before they expire or become law All details about these motions can be found through the Council File Management System (CFMS), <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/>

20-1575: Ban several types of events at Rodeos (Submitted by Dec-8-2020; Written Ordinance of Dec-17-2021 received on Dec-5-23 and a new Ordinance was requested)

21-0717-S2: COMMITTEE REPORT relative to amending the contract (extend through December 2024) with the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania to analyze the collected survey, interview, and spending data and producing a final report on the BIGLEAP (**Basic Income Guaranteed:** Los Angeles Economic Assistance Pilot) Program. (Motion submitted Oct-25-23; approved by Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging and Disability Committee and approved on Nov-03; City Council approved Dec-08)

23-1097: Ask for a **report** relative to **establishing a permanent Office of Compliance** that would proactively assist Councilmembers with identifying and avoiding potential conflicts of interest, and related matters. (Council approved motion to ask for report Dec-8 as amended)

22-0392: REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY Establishing a Transportation Communication Network District on properties throughout the City of Los Angeles owned by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to permit signs with **digital displays**. (Council approved Dec-15 by vote of Oct-4-1; Ordinance posted and published Dec-27 to take effect Feb-5-2024)

24-0018 Accept a grant of \$15,650,000 from the State Budget Act of 2022 **Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program**. Among provisions, LAPD can spend up to \$827,919 and up to \$782,500 allocated to a vendor to provide a process and evaluation on the grant program. (Submitted Dec-28-23; City Council adopted item, subject to reconsideration Dec-06)

East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project

www.Metro.net/projects Project Area



Senator Scott Wilk

Legislative Update March 2024

WILK Bills

Here are brief summaries of Senator Wilk's bills for 2024 session

Due to the rule that bills must be in print for 30 days before they can be acted upon, there has not been a lot of activity. However, bills are beginning to reach their 30 days in print date, so we expect more activity in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

- **SB 996 Sex Education Transparency** This bill will require that school districts post sexual education materials on their website for parents to review. This will ensure that parents can easily decide if the material is appropriate for their child, and opt-out of the unit if necessary. Additionally, school districts will have to publicly share where to find the materials in a board meeting or hearing.
- **SB 1004 Wildfire settlement tax exemption** This bill will exempt all settlements paid to victims of wildfires from state taxes. This will only be applicable to wildfires on or after January 1st 2020.
- **SB 1023 CSU Study Bill.** This bill would commission a study to look at the feasibility of creating a CSU in the Victor Valley or Antelope Valley.
- **SB 1039 50% Law** Current law requires school districts to spend at least 50% of their general operating budget on the salaries and benefits of faculty and instructional aides engaged in direct classroom instruction. This bill would expand the 50% Law to include counselors and librarians and would increase the law's 50% spending requirement to 60%.
- **SB 1076 Data Brokers** SB 1076 would expand consumer protections to the Consumer Privacy Protection Agency's development of a data broker deletion mechanism created last year by SB 362 (Becker).
- **SB 1146 Mortgages** This bill makes a variety of clean-up provisions relating to California's non-judicial foreclosure and mortgage laws. Specifically, this bill makes six changes to clarify trustee sale procedures: how bids are made payable to trustees, and when to automatically postpone a trustee's sale.
- **SB 1194 State Parental Advisory Committee** This bill would require the Department of Education to publish the membership for the state Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) within 90 calendar days of the formation or a change in membership. This would improve transparency regarding who represents parents' perspectives on K-12 education policies and empower all parents to contribute to the discussion.
- **SB 1233 High-Quality High-Volume Spay/Neuter Certification Program** This bill will create the nation's first High-Quality High-Volume Spay/Neuter (HQHVSN) certification program for veterinary students and professionals, which will be developed and administered by the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine. Increasing veterinarians certified to perform HQHVSN surgeries will dramatically expand access to low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter services, saving shelters from overpopulation and pets from euthanasia.

- **SB 1359 Dumping on Private Property** Existing law prohibits dumping waste on private property unless the property owner possesses the relevant permits from the state or local agency with jurisdiction over the property or has given permission to dump waste on their property This bill would require a permit regardless of the permission status, make a violation a misdemeanor, increasing the fine
- **SB 1363 Personal Safety Devices in Public Venues** This bill would prohibit a public venue from barring an individual from carrying a personal safety device, as long as it is not a device that falls under the definition of a weapon otherwise prohibited by law
- **SB 1495 Tied House Exemption** This bill would allow alcohol manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, importers, winegrowers and similar license holders to sponsor and/or buy advertising time from the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles in relation to permitted indoor or outdoor special and cultural events at the cemetery

Bills constituents are engaging on

- **SB 1160 (Portantino)** – Would require gun owners to register their firearms annually with the California Department of Justice paying an annual fee for each gun **Status**. Set to be heard in Senate Public Safety Committee on April 2
- **SB 961 (Wiener)** – Would require every passenger vehicle pickup truck, and bus (other than emergency vehicles) built after 2026 to be equipped with an intelligent speed limiter that would limit the speed of the vehicle to 10 miles per hour over the speed limit **Status** Set to be heard in Senate Transportation Committee on April 4

Recently passed bills

- **AB 610 (Holden)** Exempts restaurants in airports ports, public parks and beaches, hotels, event centers, corporate campuses, casinos theme parks, and museums from the \$20/hr minimum wage mandate and other future wage/hour and working condition mandates generated by the Fast Food Council established in AB 1228(Holden) from last year **Status** The bill passed off the Senate floor 31-4 and now heads back to the Assembly for a concurrence vote **Note** Senator Wilk supported this bill in Senate Labor Committee but decided to abstain on the floor due to some controversy regarding the Governor's involvement in the bill You can read more about that [here](#)

If you need assistance with any California state agency, please do not hesitate to reach out to me – contact information below

Kris Hough
Field Representative / Scheduler
Senator Scott Wilk, 21st Senate District
661-286-1471 x 102
Kris.hough@sen.ca.gov

Senator Wilk and Problem Solvers Caucus announce series of bills to combat retail theft

FEBRUARY 28, 2024

As Co-Chair of The California Problem Solvers Caucus, Sen Scott Wilk (*R-Santa Clarita*) is pleased announce he is coauthoring a series of bills that would help California tackle the rapid rise in retail theft

“Whether you’re a small business owner, or just going about your day running errands, you’ve felt the impacts of retail theft first-hand,” said **Senator Wilk**. “There has to be more accountability And as Co-Chair of the California Problem Solvers Caucus, I am glad to get behind these commonsense bills to put a stop in the revolving door of repeat offenders.”

After a series of stakeholder meetings and internal discussion, Problem Solvers caucus members have put forward the following to update and reform current retail theft statutes

- AB 1787 (Villapudua)* Would allow for the prosecution of repeat theft-related offenses – regardless of accumulated property value – and would mandate the use of Drug Courts when appropriate among other things (*amendments pending)
- AB 1779 (Irwin) Provides the authority to charge Organized Retail Theft and other related incidents in one county superior court even if some of the offenses occurred in multiple county jurisdictions
- AB 1972 (Alanis) Expands the definition of Organized Retail Theft to include ‘cargo theft’ to protect rail lines, shipping lanes, and delivery trucks
- AB 2406 (Davies) Establishes a new felony offense for individuals who coerce minors into committing theft-related crimes.
- SB 928 (Niello) Eliminates the 2026 sunset established for the crime of Organized Retail Theft.

The goal of The Problem Solvers Caucus is to inform and advance larger Capitol efforts to understand and address retail theft reform This includes ongoing efforts by the governor, the Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committees, the Assembly Select Committee on Retail Theft, the Little Hoover Commission, and the State Auditor’s Office

Hough, Kris

From: Senator Scott Wilk
<nicholas.vaverka.sen.ca.gov@castatesenaterepublicancaucus.ccsend.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:34 PM
To: Hough, Kris
Subject: [SuspectedMarketing] Wilk Coauthors Measure to Pull Plug on Looming Income-Based Electricity Charges



For Immediate Release: February 20, 2024
Contact: Nick VaVerka, (661) 388-1555 Nicholas.VaVerka@sen.ca.gov

Wilk Coauthors Measure to Pull Plug on Looming Income-Based Electricity Charges

SACRAMENTO – Sen. Scott Wilk (R-Santa Clarita) has announced he is co-authoring the Cost of Living Reduction Act, Senate Bill 1326 (Jones), which would repeal a 2022 law authorizing an income-based charge on electrical bills.

"Too many Californians struggle to afford their electricity bills at a time when energy is already unreliable, and yet the legislature thought it was a good idea to rip people off more?" **said Senator Wilk.** "You should be charged for how much energy you actually use; it should not be based on how much money you make. This bill stops a bad policy before it starts, and I am proud to be a coauthor."

Senate Bill 1326 (SB 1326) repeals the problematic provisions of Assembly Bill 205 (2022), which enables the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to approve new fixed charges for Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) customers based on income.

AB 205 was never heard, vetted, or voted on in any policy committee and was rammed through the Legislature in a budget trailer bill at the last minute.

Despite the supermajority pushing the bill forward, many Democrats who initially supported AB 205 are reversing course and now calling to stop the income-based charge.

Given that AB 205 mandates the implementation of the income-based fixed charge by July 1, 2024 SB 1326 has an urgency clause to take effect immediately upon being signed into law

###

Senator Wilk represents the 21st Senate District, which includes the Antelope, Santa Clarita and Victor valleys. You can learn more about Scott by visiting his [website](#)

FOLLOW SENATOR WILK



Senator Scott Wilk | State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814

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