

BILL ANALYSIS

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SENATE THIRD READING
SB 1771 (Sher)
As Amended August 29, 2000
Majority vote

SENATE VOTE : 28-11

NATURAL RESOURCES 7-2 APPROPRIATIONS 14-6

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|---|---|
| Ayes: Wayne, Jackson, Keeley, Lowenthal, Machado, Migden, Steinberg | Ayes: Migden, Alquist, Aroner, Cedillo, Corbett, Davis, Kuehl, Papan, Romero, Shelley, Thomson, Wesson, Wiggins, Wright |
| Nays: Oller, Robert Pacheco | Nays: Campbell, Ackerman, Ashburn, Brewer, Maldonado, Zettel |

SUMMARY : This bill establishes the California Climate Action Registry to establish, among other things, emissions baselines against which any future federal greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements may be applied, to encourage voluntary actions to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and record voluntary greenhouse gas emissions made after 1990. Specifically, this bill :

- 1) Makes findings and declarations relative to the importance of California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and of establishing a voluntary registry for greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- 2) Requires the Resources Agency and CalEPA jointly to establish and administer a registry through which California entities may record and register voluntary greenhouse gas emission reductions made after 1990.
- 3) Requires the agencies to jointly develop and undertake a series of tasks in order to facilitate operation and use of the registry.
- 4) Establishes procedures for reporting, monitoring, and

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verifying emissions.

- 5) Requires, not later than July 1, 2003, and biennially thereafter, the registry to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the number of organizations participating in the registry, the percentage of the state's emissions represented by the participants in the registry, and the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions achieved by those participants.
- 6) Establishes specific requirements for the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, including providing technical assistance and advice in monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, establishing industry-specific emissions reduction targets, and developing efficiency improvement programs.

FISCAL EFFECT : Unknown

COMMENTS : According to the author's office, this bill was introduced in response to suggestions made at an interim hearing last fall in Los Angeles by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on the subject of climate change. A key recommendation by many of the business witnesses at the hearing was to find non-regulatory methods by which businesses could be encouraged to voluntarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This bill is intended to address those recommendations.

The terms "global warming" and "global climate change" refer to the rise in the average temperature of the earth's surface due to a build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. While considerable political debate continues regarding the existence, causes, and effects of global warming, a majority of the world's climate scientists, as well as a special "blue ribbon" scientific panel of international experts convened by the United Nations, agree that global warming is occurring and that measures should be taken to address its effects.

According to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, in the past century global temperatures have risen approximately one degree Fahrenheit, with the 1990s the warmest decade on record to date. The most recent assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body of over 2,000 scientists, found that "the balance of evidence suggests a discernable human influence on global climate." Scientists predict that, unless

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greenhouse gas emissions are reduced substantially, Earth's average global temperature will rise by two to six degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the next century.

Analysis Prepared by : Scott H. Valor / NAT. RES. / (916)
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