

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1447

Introduced by Assembly Members Cooley and Bigelow

February 19, 2021

An act to add Chapter 17 (commencing with Section 8899.80) to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to infrastructure development, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1447, as introduced, Cooley. The Rural California Infrastructure Act.

Existing law, the Bergeson-Peace Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank Act, establishes the Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank and authorizes it to, among other things, issue bonds, make loans, and provide other financial assistance to various types of projects that constitute economic development facilities or public development facilities.

This bill would establish the Rural California Infrastructure Act to award grants to specified local agencies to fund rural infrastructure projects, as defined. The bill would create the Rural California Infrastructure Committee, consisting of 7 appointed members, to establish, by July 1, 2022, an application process for the grants and to award the grants, beginning on January 1, 2023, and every 2 years thereafter, in accordance with specified priorities. The bill would require the Controller to transfer a sum of \$1,000,000,000 to the Rural California Infrastructure Fund in the State Treasury, which the bill would create and continuously appropriate for purposes of the act. By requiring the Controller to transfer moneys from the General Fund to the Rural

California Infrastructure Fund for purposes of the program, the bill would make an appropriation.

Vote: 2/3. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 17 (commencing with Section 8899.80)
2 is added to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to read:

3
4 CHAPTER 17. RURAL CALIFORNIA INFRASTRUCTURE ACT
5

6 8899.80. This chapter shall be known as the Rural California
7 Infrastructure Act.

8 8899.81. For purposes of this chapter, the following shall apply:

9 (a) "Committee" means the Rural California Infrastructure
10 Committee established in Section 8899.82

11 (b) "Fund" means the Rural California Infrastructure Fund
12 established pursuant to Section 8899.84.

13 (c) "Local agency" means a special district, independent fire
14 district, or county, with a population of less than 300,000
15 individuals according to the 2020 census data.

16 (d) "Rural infrastructure project" means a project in a local
17 agency's jurisdiction related to any of the following:

- 18 (1) Fairground maintenance.
- 19 (2) Disaster preparedness, including creating or maintaining
20 evacuation or shelter areas for emergency evacuations.
- 21 (3) Highway or street maintenance or repair.
- 22 (4) Historic or cultural preservation or repair.

23 8899.82. (a) There is established in state government the Rural
24 California Infrastructure Committee.

25 (b) The committee shall consist of seven members who shall
26 be appointed as follows:

- 27 (1) One member appointed by the Governor.
- 28 (2) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.
- 29 (3) One member appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore of the
30 Senate.
- 31 (4) Two members appointed by the California State Association
32 of Counties who serve as representatives of that association. One

1 member shall be a representative from northern California and one
2 member shall be a representative from southern California.

3 (5) Two members appointed by the League of California Cities
4 who serve as representatives of that association. One member shall
5 be a representative from northern California and one member shall
6 be a representative from southern California.

7 (c) Except as provided in subdivision (d), each member shall
8 serve a two-year term.

9 (d) The appointing power shall have the power to remove any
10 member of the board from office for neglect of any duty required
11 by law or for incompetency or unprofessional or dishonorable
12 conduct.

13 (e) Each member shall only receive per diem and expenses as
14 necessary to carry out their duties on the committee.

15 8899.83. (a) The committee shall establish, by July 1, 2022,
16 an application process for local agencies to apply for grants to fund
17 rural infrastructure projects.

18 (b) Beginning January 1, 2023, and every two years thereafter,
19 the committee shall award grants to fund rural infrastructure
20 projects to local agencies that complete the application process.

21 (c) The committee shall prioritize applications for projects that
22 are considered shovel ready, as determined by the committee.

23 (d) Local agencies that are awarded a grant under this chapter
24 may additionally leverage federal or private funding or
25 private-public partnerships to complete the rural infrastructure
26 project the grant was awarded for.

27 (e) The committee may adopt regulations necessary to carry out
28 the purposes of this chapter in accordance with the Administrative
29 Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of
30 Part 1 of Division 3).

31 8899.84. (a) There is hereby established in the State Treasury
32 the Rural California Infrastructure Fund. Notwithstanding Section
33 13340, moneys in the fund are hereby continuously appropriated
34 without regard to fiscal years for purposes of this chapter.

35 (b) On January 1, 2022, the Controller shall transfer a sum of
36 one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) to the Rural California
37 Infrastructure Fund.

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