

Update -- SB1101

Transit Zone Unit Bill Advances in Assembly

(September 2) The Assembly Appropriations Committee on Wednesday approved and sent forward to the full Assembly SB-1101, a bill that will require transit zones to honor labor agreements between the MTA and its unions.

On a party-line vote that skirted Republican objections, committee Democrats substituted the language of SB-1101 for the text of an unrelated measure, SB-372. In its new form, SB-372 is expected to be considered on the Assembly floor early next week.

Supporters of the measure say the pay and benefits of MTA employees transferred to a transit zone must be protected. The MTA Board, which opposes the bill, has told lawmakers that the formation of transit zones is a local matter and that the legislature should not place conditions on how zones are formed.

The Board has adopted Local Transportation Zone Guidelines that require "adequate provision" for employees "who may be displaced, or whose wages, hours, place or conditions of employment are or may be adversely affected by zone implementation." The guidelines also cite state Public Utility Codes requiring protection for workers and labor agreements between the MTA and its unions.

Proposed transit zones in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys want to operate a total of 27 MTA bus lines – almost a third of the MTA's peak hour buses. In late May, the MTA Board approved pre-applications filed by the Greater San Fernando Valley Transportation Zone and Foothill Transit.

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