

Governor Vetoes Transit Zone Bill After Passage by House, Senate

UPDATE

(Oct. 11) Governor Davis has vetoed SB 372, a bill that would have required transit zones to honor labor agreements between the MTA and its unions.

In a brief veto message, Davis said, "I do not think it is appropriate for the state to mandate how local public agencies conduct collective bargaining with their employees."

Once known as SB-1101 – and then amended into SB-372 – the measure passed both houses after overcoming Republican opposition and a ruling by the legislative counsel that the amendment violated the Legislature's policies.

Supporters of the transit zone union bill had said the pay and benefits of MTA employees transferred to a transit zone must be protected. The MTA Board, which opposed the bill, 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 percent of MTA service hours and 28 percent of 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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