

**UPDATE: Jan. 24**

The full Board approved a "neutral" stance on SB-18.

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### **Committee Urges 'Neutral' Stance on Transit Riders' 'Rights' Bill**

(Jan. 17, 2002) The Executive Management and Audit Committee voted, Thursday, to recommend that the Board assume a neutral position for the moment on a state Senate bill calling for adoption of a transit riders' "Bill of Rights" by transit agencies, statewide, and for a study of the Board's membership and structure.

The "Bill of Rights," which would apply to all California transit agencies, encourages transit agencies to set general goals for bus service, safety and reliability, use of clean fuels, crowding, public participation in deciding where service is needed and complaint resolution.

The bill, SB-18, sponsored by State Sen. Richard Alarcon (D-San Fernando Valley), was heavily amended earlier this week by the Senate Transportation Committee. The original bill included provisions to change the composition of the 13-member MTA Board.

The study will examine whether more members should be added to the MTA Board or whether some should be replaced with transit rider representatives. The legislature is expected to complete the study in July 2003.

The original bill would have reduced the number of county supervisors on the Board from five to three. It would have eliminated the three appointments by the Mayor of Los Angeles, who would remain a Board member.

It also would have given the president of the LA City Council two appointments and required two members to be appointed from the public – one of whom would be selected by the Bus Riders Union. Four members would have been named by the LA County City Selection Committee, as is currently the case.

SB-18 is scheduled to be taken up Jan. 24 by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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