

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 53

Introduced by Senator Becker

October 1, 2025

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 53, as introduced, Becker. Climate Change

Under existing California law, the state has already established ambitious goals to address climate change. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to monitor and regulate greenhouse gas emissions to reduce them to 1990 levels by 2020. Later amendments, such as SB 32 (2016), extended these goals by mandating a 40 percent reduction of greenhouse gases below 1990 levels by 2030. In addition, Executive Order B-55-18 directs the state to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2045.

The state also funds climate programs through mechanisms like the Cap-and-Trade Program, which generates revenue invested in renewable energy, clean transportation, and community resilience projects. Moreover, agencies such as the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Strategic Growth Council support local governments in developing adaptation strategies.

However, existing law does not set clear interim targets beyond 2030, nor does it create a comprehensive, dedicated resilience fund to ensure long-term adaptation and equitable investments in vulnerable communities.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: Yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1. Findings and declarations**

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) California has established ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals, but additional measures are necessary to ensure the state achieves carbon neutrality no later than 2045.
- (b) Communities across the state face increasing risks from wildfires, droughts, heat waves, and sea level rise.
- (c) Equitable investments in climate resilience are essential to protect public health, the economy, and the environment.

**SECTION 2. Definitions**

- (a) “Board” means the State Air Resources Board.
- (b) “Fund” means the Climate Resilience Investment Fund created by this act.
- (c) “Disadvantaged communities” means communities identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

**SECTION 3.**

(a) The board shall establish and enforce interim statewide greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030, 2035, and 2040 that are consistent with achieving statewide carbon neutrality no later than 2045.

b) Beginning in 2027, the board shall submit an annual progress report to the Legislature on the state's progress toward meeting those targets.

**SECTION 4.**

a) The Climate Resilience Investment Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury.

(b) Money in the fund shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for all of the following purposes:

(1) Assisting local governments in developing and implementing climate action and resilience plans.

(2) Expanding clean public transit and zero-emission vehicle infrastructure.

(3) Supporting renewable energy generation and storage projects.

(4) Investing in wildfire prevention, water conservation, and sea-level rise adaptation projects.

(5) Not less than 40 percent of funds shall be allocated to disadvantaged communities.

**SECTION 5.**

(a) The board, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Research, shall administer the fund and establish guidelines for project eligibility, application, and reporting.

(b) An independent oversight committee shall be established to review program effectiveness every three years and make recommendations to the Legislature.

**SECTION 6.**

No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act.