

AB 266: Freeway Service Patrol

Assemblymember Laurie Davies

IN BRIEF

AB 266 would authorize a participating regional or local entity who operates a freeway service patrol (FSP) program to generate additional revenue for its FSP by entering into exclusive sponsorship agreements that allow for the display of a sponsor's name and logo on participating tow trucks.

THE ISSUE

The Freeway Service Patrol Act authorizes and provides funding for freeway service patrols, operated pursuant to an agreement between the Department of the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Transportation, and a regional or local governmental entity, to provide emergency roadside assistance on traffic-congested urban freeways throughout the state. These vehicles provide much needed assistance to distressed or stranded motorists.

As great as these services are, they are grossly underfunded unfortunately. To help combat this funding dilemma, 16 other states allow for sponsorship opportunities on their similar FSP services. This has allowed other states to not only continue their programs, but grow them. In California, the 14 regional FSP programs across 25 counties help 650,000 motorists each year and provide a benefit-to-cost ratio of 5:1

With additional funding, the service patrols could expand their coverage area, improve response times, or enhance the quality of service provided to motorists. It could also help the state cope with growing transportation demands. By securing sponsorship deals, the state could reduce the amount of public money required to run these services, allowing funds to be allocated to other transportation or infrastructure needs.

CURRENT LAW

According to CalTrans, under current law, the FSP is "a congestion management program operating in metropolitan areas of the state that facilitates the rapid clearing of crashes and other incidents, thereby improving traffic flow. FSP tow truck drivers patrol designated sections of congested freeways primarily during peak traffic periods, stopping to assist motorists,

removing debris from the roadway or towing vehicles from the freeways. or guardians of minor victims cannot make the request for such testing."

THE SOLUTION

AB 266 would follow the lead of 16 other states and allow local transportation agencies the ability to advertise sponsorship on freeway service patrol tow trucks thereby saving taxpayers money by not coming to them to help pay for the services done by this program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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