

CUPA

Tuesday, 10/14/2025

CO-SPONSOR/SUPPORT

[AB 993](#) ([Hadwick, R](#)) Hazardous materials management: Rural CUPA Reimbursement Account.

Last Amended: 05/23/2025

Location: 10/01/2025 - Assembly **CHAPTERED**

Summary: The current law mandates that the Secretary for Environmental Protection set regulations for a unified hazardous waste and materials management program. Cities or local agencies that meet certain criteria can apply to implement this program, while every county must apply to become a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) to execute it. A fund called the Rural CUPA Reimbursement Account supports counties with fewer than 150,000 residents that have not been certified as CUPAs by January 1, 2000, but that implement the program using a designated CUPA. The proposed bill, pending budget allocation, would extend eligibility for these funds to all counties under 150,000 residents, removing restrictions related to certification date or implementation status.

[AB 1459](#) ([Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials](#)) Hazardous waste: underground storage tanks.

Last Amended: 06/09/2025

Location: 07/30/2025 - Assembly **CHAPTERED**

Summary: The existing law requires facilities that generate, treat, or store hazardous waste to have a permit or authorization from the Department of Toxic Substances Control or a unified program agency. However, a permit is not needed for treating hazardous waste generated onsite in a laboratory if specific procedures and quantities are followed. The proposed bill prioritizes these specified procedures and, in their absence, allows the use of the manufacturer's procedures, provided they do not conflict with existing regulations. It also permits required notifications and certifications regarding compliance, which were previously done in person or by certified mail, to be submitted through the statewide information management system. Regarding underground storage tanks, the current law regulates these with a definition that excludes certain tanks, such as those used for hydraulic fluid in closed-loop mechanical systems operating lifts and elevators. The bill expands this exclusion to include tanks holding hydraulic or dielectric fluid for systems that use compressed air, hydraulic fluid, or dielectric fluid to operate lifts, elevators, and other similar devices, including electric cooling or insulation systems.

NEUTRAL

[AB 588](#) ([Patel, D](#)) State Fire Marshal: lithium battery working group: membership: funding.

Last Amended: 04/21/2025

Location: 05/23/2025 - **Assembly 2 YEAR**

Summary: Under existing law, the State Fire Marshal must adopt rules by January 1, 2026, to enhance the fire and electrical safety of electric bicycles, mobility devices, and lithium storage batteries. This bill mandates the creation of a lithium battery working group by the State Fire Marshal. This group will consist of appointed members tasked with identifying and proposing solutions for safety issues related to lithium batteries and their charging infrastructure in residential and commercial areas not covered by the 2025 California Building Standards Code. The group's initial findings and recommendations are due by January 1, 2027. Additionally, funds from the Building Standards Administration Special Revolving Fund, which collects fees from building permit applicants, would be allocated to support the working group's activities and address related building safety concerns.

[AB 864](#) ([Ward, D](#)) Hazardous waste: solar photovoltaic modules.

Last Amended: 07/17/2025

Location: 09/11/2025 - **Senate 2 YEAR**

Summary: Existing law mandates the Department of Toxic Substances Control to create regulations for identifying and managing hazardous and universal waste, including designating end-of-life photovoltaic modules as universal waste if deemed hazardous. Current regulations describe surplus materials and exclude these from being recyclable. Federally, certain hazardous secondary materials transferred for reclamation under specific conditions are not classified as hazardous waste. This bill proposes that solar photovoltaic modules intended for recycling but not suitable for resale, reuse, or refurbishing can be classified as universal waste only until new regulations are established for better management standards. It instructs the department to develop these new standards to enhance material recovery from such modules and adopt federal regulations allowing transfer-based exclusions for these modules. Additionally, the bill categorizes modules that can be resold, reused, or refurbished as surplus material and includes necessary changes to align regulations.

AB 1338 (Solache, D) Metal shredding facilities: regulations.

Last Amended: 04/03/2025

Location: 07/17/2025 - **Senate 2 YEAR**

Summary: Existing law mandates that by January 1, 2027, air pollution or air quality management districts overseeing metal shredding facilities must, in collaboration with relevant state departments, establish requirements for facility-wide fence-line air quality monitoring. Previously, the law allowed these districts to be reimbursed for any reasonable regulatory costs through district fee authority. This bill changes the provision to require that the owner or operator of a metal shredding facility reimburses these costs.

SB 283 (Laird, D) Energy storage systems.

Last Amended: 09/05/2025

Location: 10/06/2025 - Senate **CHAPTERED**

Summary: The existing law allows individuals proposing large energy storage systems to apply for certification from the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, which serves as a substitute for other permits. This law also gives the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) authority over utilities and mandates initiatives to expand energy storage. This bill introduces new requirements effective January 1, 2026, mandating that applicants for energy storage systems must certify they consulted with the local fire authority at least 30 days prior to applying. Approval of applications will depend on mandatory inspections by fire authorities, whose costs will be borne by the applicant. Additionally, the State Fire Marshal is tasked with proposing new building code regulations restricting energy storage systems to safe locations by July 1, 2026. The bill constitutes a state-mandated program applicable to all cities, regardless of status, and establishes rules for reimbursement of costs incurred by local agencies as a result of these mandates. However, certain mandates are exempt from reimbursement.

SB 501 (Allen, D) Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Act.

Last Amended: 04/07/2025

Location: 05/23/2025 - **Senate 2 YEAR**

Summary: This bill would create a producer responsibility program specifically for products containing household hazardous waste. Under this program, producers must manage the end-of-life cycle of these products by registering with a producer responsibility organization (PRO) that will collect, transport, and safely handle the waste, all at no cost to consumers or local governments. The PRO is required to create a comprehensive plan outlining these processes, which the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) must approve. If the plan is not entirely approved, revisions must be made. Once the plan is approved, it must be implemented within 90 days and funded equitably among producers. The PRO must also reimburse local jurisdictions for costs, prepare an annual report, retain relevant documents, and undergo audits, all under penalty of perjury. Additionally, the program establishes the Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Fund and Penalty Account for administrative charges and penalties, respectively. This proposal also involves CalRecycle updating waste characterization studies to include data on the proper and improper disposal of covered products. Furthermore, the bill makes legislative findings regarding public access limitations and indicates that no state reimbursement is required for certain costs outlined.

SB 615 (Allen, D) Vehicle traction batteries.

Last Amended: 09/02/2025

Location: 09/11/2025 - **Assembly 2 YEAR**

Summary: Existing law mandates the Secretary for Environmental Protection to form a group advising on lithium-ion vehicle battery recycling policies. This group's role is to recommend ways to ensure nearly all used lithium-ion vehicle batteries are safely and cost-effectively recycled or reused. The hazardous waste laws require the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to manage hazardous waste, with violations considered crimes. This bill assigns responsibility to battery suppliers and other parties (like secondary users and handlers) for the proper disposal of used vehicle traction batteries. They must also report transactions involving these batteries to the department. Additionally, auctioneers and salvage auctions must report similar information. Suppliers must cover DTSC's regulatory costs, depositing funds into a special state treasury fund meant for implementing and enforcing these rules. The bill also allows for state-approved loans to meet initial regulatory costs and mandates a study on abandoned batteries by 2030, with findings published online every five years. Civil penalties can be imposed for violations, though these infractions are not subject to criminal penalties and reports must be submitted under penalty of perjury. The bill limits public access to certain collected information and concludes that no state reimbursement for local costs is necessary.

AB 626 (Papan, D) Underground storage tanks: design and construction requirements: exemption.

Last Amended: 04/10/2025

Location: 04/23/2025 - Assembly **APPR. SUSPENSE FILE**

Summary: Existing law regulates underground storage tanks (USTs) through the State Water Resources Control Board, mandating that USTs installed after January 1, 1984, store hazardous substances and have both primary and secondary containment, except for specific circumstances. Single-walled tanks do not satisfy these requirements. The law stipulates various requirements for monitoring, inspecting, replacing, and upgrading USTs installed before January 1, 1984. By December 31, 2025, USTs meeting certain conditions must be permanently closed. The bill exempts operators from these closure requirements if they are actively working to upgrade single-walled USTs to double-walled systems by September 30, 2025, under specific conditions. Operators must request this exemption in writing from the local enforcement agency by September 30, 2025, and the agency must respond within 60 days. This creates additional local duties covered under a state-mandated local program. If the Commission on State Mandates determines state costs are mandated, reimbursement will follow statutory procedures. The bill takes immediate effect as an urgency statute.

SB 404 (Caballero, D) Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

Last Amended: 09/04/2025

Location: 10/13/2025 - Senate **VETOED**

Summary: The bill proposes a new regulatory framework for metal shredding facilities, which will be overseen by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) separately from existing hazardous waste laws. It repeals the current legal provisions that classify treated metal shredder waste as solid waste, and instead establishes a comprehensive scheme requiring facility operators to hold a permit issued by the DTSC. Permit procedures include public meetings and a mandate for DTSC to finalize permit decisions within three years for existing facilities. Certain materials from metal shredding may not be classified as hazardous if they fulfill specific criteria. The DTSC gains primary responsibility for enforcement, conducting annual inspections, and is authorized to involve legal avenues for violations. The bill mandates emergency reporting, closure plans, and notification for ownership changes. It also introduces a new Metal Shredding Facility subaccount for collected fees, which will fund the implementation and administration of these regulations. The bill further requires the establishment of monitoring and notification systems if hazardous material release is detected, while costs associated with these measures will be reimbursed from the subaccount. Finally, it clarifies that these changes pertain to state concerns, not limited by municipal boundaries, and does not necessitate state reimbursement for local government costs under certain conditions.

[AB 696](#) **(Ransom, D) Lithium-ion vehicle batteries: emergencies: advisory group.**

Last Amended: 08/20/2025

Location: 10/11/2025 - Assembly **VETOED**

Summary: The existing law mandates the Secretary for Environmental Protection to form a group, continuing until January 1, 2027, to advise on policies for recycling lithium-ion batteries from vehicles. This bill proposes that by December 31, 2026, the Office of the State Fire Marshal should establish a new advisory group to focus on safety and management of these batteries during emergencies. Members would be appointed from various specified sectors. This group must meet quarterly until July 1, 2028, collaborating with universities, vehicle manufacturers, and first responders. Their task is to develop standards for safely managing battery-related emergencies, concluding their work by July 1, 2028. These provisions would expire on January 1, 2029.

[AB 855](#) **(Lackey, R) Vehicles: commercial electric vehicle safety.**

Last Amended: 03/04/2025

Location: 05/23/2025 - **Assembly 2 YEAR**

Summary: The California Highway Patrol regulates the safe operation of certain heavy vehicles, such as large motortrucks and truck tractors, in conjunction with other departments like the Department of Consumer Affairs and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Additionally, the Office of Emergency Services, part of the Governor's office, is responsible for the state's emergency and disaster response. This bill mandates that by January 1, 2027, the Office of Emergency Services must create and publish an action plan for responding to fires involving electric commercial motor vehicle batteries. This plan should address topics such as best practices for reducing wildfire risks and preventing battery reignition. The development of this plan requires input from stakeholders including the California Highway Patrol, electric truck manufacturers, and labor organizations.

[AB 1288](#) **(Addis, D) Registered environmental health specialists.**

Last Amended: 09/04/2025

Location: 10/03/2025 - Assembly **CHAPTERED**

Summary: The existing law outlines the certification and regulation of registered environmental health specialists by the State Department of Public Health. It includes application, examination, and renewal fees, and sets educational and experience criteria for eligibility. Under this law, an applicant cannot retake the exam if they fail twice, without waiting a specified period, and they cannot take it more than once in a two-year period. The law mandates a registry of specialists and trainees and defines their scope of practice, allowing local health departments to hire specialists to enforce public health laws. Environmental health specialist trainees can work under supervision for up to three years, and the training plan must meet certain standards. A proposed bill introduces changes such as: reducing the wait time to retake the exam to 90 days, modifying educational requirements by removing certain coursework criteria, and extending trainee supervision to five years. It expands the specialists' practice to include body art and medical waste management and updates the training plan elements. The bill requires the registry to be publicly accessible online within 90 days after an exam. It also revises the Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee's structure by making the State Environmental Health Director the executive officer, altering committee membership, removing term limits, and changing other procedural aspects. Moreover, the bill mandates quarterly committee meetings, which can be in person or virtual, and allows meetings to be canceled under specific circumstances.

[AB 998](#) **(Hadwick, R) Household hazardous waste: vape pens.**

Last Amended: 07/17/2025

Location: 08/29/2025 - **Senate 2 YEAR**

Summary: The Department of Toxic Substances Control oversees hazardous waste management and handling, with violations considered criminal offenses. This bill, effective until January 1, 2029, mandates the department to explore ways to safely and conveniently manage and dispose of vape pens seized from students in schools. It allows household hazardous waste facilities to disassemble such items to separate hazardous components without unauthorized release of materials. It prohibits including vape pens in materials exchange programs, potentially as a crime if violated, creating a state-mandated local program.

Although the California Constitution requires state reimbursement to local agencies for certain mandated costs, this bill specifies that no reimbursement is needed for this action.

Total Measures: 14

Total Tracking Forms: 14