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**AB-673 Public transit operators: bus procurement: safety considerations.** (2017-2018)

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**Assembly Bill No. 673**

**CHAPTER 126**

An act to add Section 99173 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to transit operators.

[ Approved by Governor July 24, 2017. Filed with Secretary of State July 24, 2017. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 673, Chu. Public transit operators: bus procurement: safety considerations.

(1) Existing law imposes various requirements on transit operators and provides funding for transit services and capital improvements.

This bill would require a public transit operator, before the procurement of a new bus to be used in revenue operations, to take into consideration recommendations of, and best practices standards developed by, the exclusive representative of the recognized organization representing bus operators of the transit operator for specified purposes, including, among other purposes, reducing the risk of assault on bus operators. By creating new duties for public transit operators, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

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

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 99173 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

**99173.** (a) Before the procurement of a new bus to be used in revenue operations, a public transit operator shall take into consideration recommendations of, and best practices standards developed by, the exclusive representative of the recognized organization representing bus operators of the transit operator for the following purposes:

(1) To reduce the risk of assault on bus operators.

(2) To prevent accidents caused by blind spots created by bus equipment or bus design.

(3) To enhance the safety of passengers, bus operators, or other vehicles or pedestrians that the bus may come into contact with while in service.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a public transit operator to implement specific recommendations.

**SEC. 2.** If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.