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**SB-656 San Diego-Coronado Bridge: physical suicide deterrent system.** (2019-2020)

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**Senate Bill No. 656**

**CHAPTER 651**

An act relating to the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[ Approved by Governor October 08, 2019. Filed with Secretary of State October 08, 2019. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 656, Hueso. San Diego-Coronado Bridge: physical suicide deterrent system.

Existing law provides funding for the development, construction, and maintenance of the state's bridges and highways and requires that a project study report be prepared for any new project involving the construction of a new bridge, or the replacement of a bridge with a history of documented suicides, that demonstrates that a suicide barrier was a feature that was considered during the project's planning process.

This bill would require the Director of Transportation to select members for an advisory committee to provide input into the selection of a physical suicide deterrent system for the San Diego-Coronado Bridge that would include, but would not be limited to, a representative from the Department of the California Highway Patrol, a mental health advocate, a member of a local suicide prevention group, residents of specified cities, and representatives of specified city and county governments. The bill would also provide for the selection to the advisory committee of one representative each by the Assembly Members or State Senators whose districts include the San Diego-Coronado Bridge.

This bill would repeal these provisions upon the Department of Transportation's selection of a physical suicide deterrent system for the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, or on January 1, 2030, whichever occurs first.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

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

**SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The San Diego-Coronado Bridge was constructed between February 1967 and August 1969, as an alternative to the San Diego-Coronado ferry system.

(b) It is recognized as a San Diego landmark and has won several awards for both its beauty and its unique construction. The bridge is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

(c) Over 80,000 passenger vehicles cross the San Diego-Coronado Bridge daily as the bridge serves a critical connection for the community of Coronado and Naval Base Coronado to San Diego.

(d) Roughly 400 suicides have occurred since 1969 at the San Diego-Coronado Bridge.

(e) The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has completed a feasibility study on a physical suicide deterrent system for the San Diego-Coronado Bridge and has begun a process to select, schedule, and fund the system.

(f) Input from a broad cross-section of regional stakeholders will help inform the selection process and lead to a decision that best meets the desires of the community.

**SEC. 2.** (a) The Director of Transportation shall select members for an advisory committee to provide input into the selection of a physical suicide deterrent system for the San Diego-Coronado Bridge. The advisory committee shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) A representative from the County of San Diego.
- (2) A representative from the Department of the California Highway Patrol.
- (3) A representative from the City of San Diego.
- (4) A resident of the City of San Diego.
- (5) A representative from the City of Coronado.
- (6) A resident of the City of Coronado.
- (7) A mental health advocate.
- (8) A member of a local suicide prevention group.

(b) The advisory committee shall also include one representative for each Assembly Member and State Senator whose district includes the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, to be selected by that Assembly Member or State Senator.

(c) This section shall be repealed upon the Department of Transportation's selection of a physical suicide deterrent system for the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, or on January 1, 2030, whichever occurs first.

**SEC. 3.** This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to ensure that any physical suicide deterrent system for the San Diego-Coronado Bridge reflects the input of a broad cross-section of regional stakeholders, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.