

BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

MODIFIES ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

- Amends California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to expedite environmental review for specified project categories (including most housing, transportation, water, health, wildfire mitigation, educational facility, internet access, and clean energy projects). For these types of projects, this measure:
 - Sets deadlines for public agencies to complete environmental review and take required actions.
 - Allows expedited review of environmental impacts, limiting public agencies' current obligation to consider a range of feasible project alternatives to reduce environmental impacts.
 - Establishes deadlines for filing and resolving lawsuits challenging project approvals; limits evidence courts may consider and relief courts can order.

Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact:

- Initial costs for state and local governments, likely in the high tens of millions of dollars annually—potentially exceeding \$100 million annually—to implement new project review and court challenge procedures for eligible projects. Fees paid by project applicants and people filing lawsuits would partly cover these costs.
- In the longer term, uncertain, but potentially more significant positive or negative fiscal effects for state and local governments. The overall effect depends, in part, on how the new procedures change the number of eligible projects that get built and whether those projects have different environmental impacts.