

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 2477 (Rodriguez)

As Amended May 19, 2022

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to adopt minimum operating standards for private sector companies that provide alert and warning services to local entities.

**Major Provisions**

Requires Cal OES to adopt minimum operating standards for private sector companies that provide alert and warning services to local entities.

**COMMENTS**

*Emergency Alerts:* In recent years, California has experienced severe problems in notifying or warning citizens in times of disaster or emergency. This has resulted in the loss of lives and can be generally attributed to: faulty preparation, issues in planning and decision making, limitations in existing warning and notification technology and systems, the inability of communications providers to have needed equipment or services in rural communities, and the failure of citizens to sign up for warnings or heed them.

**According to the Author**

State and local governmental entities rely on private sector contractors to issue emergency alerts and warnings throughout California. Local emergency managers rely upon these vendors to routinely warn the public of fires, floods, extreme temperatures, or areas to avoid due to police activity or other hazardous activities. Local alert and warning systems are also critically important during major disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, major fires and pandemics. Alerts can convey vital information about evacuation routes and shelter locations.

Given the importance of emergency alert and warning programs to our communities, Cal OES should develop minimum operating standards for private sector vendors to ensure these platforms are resilient to all types of disasters. Cal OES should also ensure there are consistent and timely reporting mechanism of any disruptions in a private sector's ability to send alerts and warnings due to a cyber attack or other incident.

**Arguments in Support**

The California Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Districts Association of California write in support, "Emergency alerts and warning systems are imperative tools for local community emergency preparedness and evacuation plans. By keeping public safety entities apprised of any gaps in service, they will be able to better anticipate potential disruptions and ensure their community is properly equipped for emergencies. For these reasons, the California Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Districts Association of California are in support of AB 2477.

The Disability Rights Coalition writes in support, "Emergencies and disasters can strike quickly without warning, forcing people to quickly leave their home unexpectedly. For the millions of Californians who have disabilities, emergencies, such as fires, floods and acts of terrorism, present a real challenge. It is crucial that California continue to develop procedures that adapt to

the needs of the disability community. These procedures must be accessible for all disabled people and must include standards for private sector companies to provide alert and warning services regarding disruptions in service."

**Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "OES would also incur one-time General Fund (GF) costs to develop the regulations and annual GF costs of an unknown amount to oversee adoption of the new regulations."

**VOTES****ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 7-0-0**

**YES:** Rodriguez, Seyarto, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Gray, Waldron, Ward

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 12-0-4**

**YES:** Holden, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Mike Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Levine, Quirk, Robert Rivas, Akilah Weber, Wilson

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Bigelow, Megan Dahle, Davies, Fong

**UPDATED**

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