

## SENATE THIRD READING

SB 804 (Glazer)

As Amended May 20, 2021

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires the Director of the California Conservation Corps (CCC), upon appropriation and on or before December 31, 2023, in partnership with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR), to establish a forestry training center in northern California to provide enhanced training, education, work experience, and job readiness for entry-level forestry and vegetation management jobs.

**Major Provisions**

- 1) Requires the Director of CCC (Director), upon appropriation and on or before December 31, 2023, in partnership with CAL FIRE and DCR, to establish a forestry training center in northern California to provide enhanced training, education, work experience, and job readiness for entry-level forestry and vegetation management jobs.
- 2) Requires the training center to focus on forestry and include additional specified supportive services.
- 3) Requires the Director to enroll formerly incarcerated individuals at the training center and prioritizes enrollment for those formerly incarcerated individuals who have done either of the following:
  - a) Successfully served on a CCC program crew and were recommended by CAL FIRE and DCR; or,
  - b) Successfully served on a hand crew at the county level and were recommended for participation by county probation and county fire departments.
- 4) Authorizes the Director to enroll corps members and local community conservation corps members at the training center if funding and resources allow.
- 5) Specifies that successful completion of a training program at the training center constitutes qualifying experience for an entry-level forestry or vegetation management position at a state agency.
- 6) Requires, commencing December 31, 2023, and annually thereafter, the CCC to include in an existing report specified information related to the training center that could be established by this bill, the existing Ventura Training Center (VTC), and other programs used to exclusively serve formerly incarcerated individuals.

**COMMENTS**

CAL FIRE, CCC, and DCR created a firefighter training and certification program at the VTC in Camarillo. Trainees are people on parole who participated in the Conservation Camp Program. VTC provides firefighter training, certifications, and job readiness support to create a pathway for formerly incarcerated individuals to compete for entry-level firefighting jobs with state,

federal and local agencies. VTC participants are trained and available to assist in fire suppression, emergency incident response and to perform fire prevention and resource management work. Onsite counselors help participants develop skills to successfully reintegrate into the community. Services include employment skill assessments, money management, technology training, tutoring, career planning, and searching and applying for jobs.

A maximum of 80 cadets are housed at VTC at any one time. The program enrolled 21 cadets in the first year and 45 in the second year. The average age was 32-34. The CCC and its VTC partners have not released outcomes data yet for this program.

The CCC has broad authority to enroll formerly incarcerated people as regular corps members or in its programs. AB 2126 (Eggman), Chapter 635, Statutes of 2018, established the Forestry Corps, which already has crews in northern California. In addition, AB 1668 (Carrillo), Chapter 587, Statutes of 2019, created the Education and Employment Reentry Program to train formerly incarcerated people. Like this bill, AB 1668 was upon appropriation, but never received an appropriation and therefore has not trained anyone.

### **According to the Author**

This legislation would create a center to train formerly incarcerated people in forestry management, thereby reducing the risk of deadly wildfires, while offering these qualified individuals a pathway to gainful employment. One way to reduce the devastation of wildfires is to proactively engage in forestry and vegetation management, including brush clearing. One of the greatest obstacles to this practice, however, is a lack of a trained workforce. This bill seeks to fill that void by establishing a program where graduates would be eligible for an entry-level forestry positions throughout the state.

### **Arguments in Support**

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), in support of this bill, states SB 804, as amended on May 20, 2021, would require the Director of the CCC, in partnership with CAL FIRE and DCR, to establish a forestry training center in northern California to provide enhanced training, education, work experience, and job readiness for entry-level forestry and vegetation management jobs.

The bill's focus on forestry management, reducing damage from wildfires through increased vegetation management, and increasing pathways to jobs are consistent with EBMUD policies. EBMUD looks forward to working collaboratively with Senator Glazer on our shared goals.

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None received

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 1) CCC estimates one-time capital outlay costs of about \$65 million (General Fund or bond funds) to construct a new residential training center. If an existing facility is renovated, renovation costs are estimated to be between \$20 million and \$30 million and annual lease costs are projected to be between \$250,000 and \$450,000.
- 2) CCC and DCR estimate combined ongoing annual costs of approximately \$9.4 million (General Fund) to operate a new residential training facility that supports 80 corps members.

An estimated \$1 million in contract funds per year (General Fund) will be necessary to provide the additional social services required by the bill.

- 3) Annual ongoing CCC costs of approximately \$800,000 (General Fund) for six positions to support the training center at the same level of service provided to corps members at other locations, and an additional \$35,000 for data gathering services to meet the additional reporting requirements.
- 4) CAL FIRE reports there will be no additional costs associated with this bill.

## VOTES

### SENATE FLOOR: 38-0-2

**YES:** Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Becker, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hertzberg, Hueso, Hurtado, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Min, Newman, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Melendez, Nielsen

### ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 11-0-0

**YES:** Luz Rivas, Flora, Chau, Friedman, Cristina Garcia, Mathis, McCarty, Muratsuchi, Seyarto, Stone, Wood

### ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 8-0-0

**YES:** Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Bauer-Kahan, Lee, Quirk, Santiago, Seyarto, Wicks

### ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 16-0-0

**YES:** Lorena Gonzalez, Bigelow, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Megan Dahle, Davies, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Levine, Quirk, Robert Rivas, Akilah Weber, Kalra

## UPDATED

VERSION: May 20, 2021

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