Introduced by Senator Wiener (Principal coauthor: Senator Skinner)

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Ting)
(Coauthor: Senator Hueso)

January 3, 2018

An act to add-Section 65917.7 to Chapter 4.35 (commencing with Section 65918.5) to Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, relating to land use.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 827, as amended, Wiener. Planning and zoning: transit-rich housing bonus.

The Planning and Zoning Law requires, when an applicant proposes a housing development within the jurisdiction of a local government, that the city, county, or city and county provide the developer with a density bonus and other incentives or concessions for the production of lower income housing units or for the donation of land within the development if the developer, among other things, agrees to construct a specified percentage of units for very low, low-, or moderate-income households or qualifying residents.

This bill would authorize a require a local government to, if requested, grant a development proponent of a transit-rich housing project—to receive a transit-rich housing—bonus. bonus if that development meets specified planning standards, including complying with demolition permit requirements, local inclusionary housing ordinance requirements, preparing a relocation benefits and assistance plan, any locally adopted objective zoning standards, and any locally adopted minimum unit mix

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requirements. The bill would define a transit-rich housing project as a residential development project the parcels of which are all within a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius of a major transit stop or a 1/4 mile radius of a stop on a high-quality transit-corridor, as those terms are further defined. corridor. The bill would exempt a project awarded a housing opportunity bonus an eligible applicant who receives a transit-rich housing bonus from various requirements, including maximum controls on residential density or floor area ratio, density, maximum controls on floor area ratio that are lower than a specified amount, minimum automobile parking requirements, maximum height limitations, and zoning or design standards that restrict the applicant's ability to construct the maximum number of units consistent with any applicable building code, and maximum height limitations, as provided. controls that have the effect of limiting additions onto existing structures or lots that comply with those maximum floor area ratios and height limitations. The bill would require an eligible applicant who receives a transit-rich housing bonus to provide benefits to eligible displaced persons who are displaced by the development, including requiring the applicant to offer a right to remain guarantee to those tenants, and to make payments to eligible displaced persons for moving and related expenses as well as for relocation benefits. The bill would also require an eligible applicant to submit a relocation benefit and assistance plan for approval to the applicable local government to that effect, and to provide specified information and assistance to eligible displaced persons.

The bill would declare that its provisions address a matter of statewide concern and apply equally to all cities and counties in this state, including a charter city.

By adding to the duties of local planning officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

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The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that this act addresses a matter of statewide concern and shall apply equally to all cities and counties in this state, including charter cities.

SEC. 2. Chapter 4.35 (commencing with Section 65918.5) is added to Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, immediately following Chapter 4.3, to read:

Chapter 4.35. Transit-Rich Housing Bonus

65918.5. For purposes of this chapter:

- (a) "Development proponent" means an applicant who submits an application for a transit-rich housing bonus pursuant to this chapter.
- (b) "Eligible applicant" means a development proponent who receives a transit-rich housing bonus.
 - (c) "FAR" means floor area ratio.
- (d) "High-quality transit corridor" means a corridor with fixed route bus service that has service intervals of no more than 15 minutes during peak commute hours.
- (e) "Local government" means city, including a charter city, a county, or city and county.
- (f) "Transit-rich housing project" means a residential development project the parcels of which are all within a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a high-quality transit corridor. A residential development project does not qualify as a transit-rich housing project if that project would result in the construction of housing in zoning districts that prohibit the construction of housing as a principal or conditional use, including, but not limited to, exclusively industrial or manufacturing zoning districts. A project shall be deemed to be within a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a high-quality transit corridor if both of the following apply:
- (1) All parcels within the project have no more than 25 percent of their area outside of a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a high-quality transit corridor.

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(2) No more than 10 percent of the residential units or 100 units, whichever is less, of the project are outside of a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a high-quality transit corridor.

- 65918.6. (a) Notwithstanding any local ordinance, general plan element, specific plan, charter, or other local law, policy, resolution, or regulation, a local jurisdiction shall, if requested, provide an eligible applicant with a transit-rich housing bonus that shall exempt the project from all of the following:
 - (1) Maximum controls on residential density.
- (2) Maximum controls on FAR lower than those specified in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c).
 - (3) Minimum automobile parking requirements.
- (4) Maximum building height limits that are less than those specified in subdivision (b).
- (5) Zoning or design controls that have the effect of limiting additions onto existing structures or lots if such additions comply with the height and FAR limits established in subdivision (b) or paragraph (4) of subdivision (c).
- (b) An eligible applicant shall be exempt from local maximum height limits as follows:
- (1) If the transit-rich housing project is within a one-quarter mile radius of either a major transit stop or a stop on a high-quality transit corridor, the maximum height limitation shall not be less than 85 feet, except in cases where a parcel facing a street that is less than 70 feet wide from property line to property line, in which case the maximum height shall not be less than 55 feet. If the project is exempted from the local maximum height limitation, the maximum height limitation for a transit-rich housing project shall be 85 feet or 55 feet, as provided in this paragraph.
- (2) If the transit-rich housing project is within one-half mile of a major transit stop, but does not meet the criteria specified in paragraph (1), any maximum height limitation shall not be less than 55 feet, except in cases where a parcel facing a street that is less than 70 feet wide from property line to property line, in which case the maximum height shall not be less than 45 feet. If the project is exempted from the local maximum height limitation, the maximum height limitation for a transit-rich housing project shall be 55 feet or 45 feet, as provided in this paragraph.

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(3) For purposes of this subdivision, if a parcel has street frontage on two or more different streets, the maximum height limitation pursuant to this subdivision shall be based on the widest street.

- (c) A development proponent may submit an application for a development to be subject to the transit-rich housing bonus process provided by subdivision (b) if the application satisfies all of the following planning standards:
- (1) Any demolition permit that is related to an application for a transit-rich housing project is subject to all demolition permit controls, restrictions, and review processes enacted by the applicable local government. Additionally, an applicant shall be ineligible for a transit-rich housing bonus if the housing development is proposed on any property that includes a parcel or parcels on which existing rental units that are subject to any form of rent or price control through a local government's valid exercise of its police power would need to be demolished, unless the local government passes a resolution explicitly authorizing a review process for demolition permit applications.
- (2) The development complies with any local inclusionary housing ordinances. For purposes of this paragraph, local inclusionary housing ordinances include either of the following:
- (A) A mandatory requirement, as a condition of the development of residential units, that the development include a certain percentage of residential units affordable to, and occupied by, households with incomes that do not exceed the limits for moderate-income, lower income, very low income, or extremely low income households specified in Sections 50079.5, 50093, 50105, and 50106 of the Health and Safety Code. The ordinance may provide alternative means of compliance that may include, but are not limited to, in-lieu fees, land dedication, off-site construction, or acquisition and rehabilitation of existing units. If the ordinance is adopted after January 1, 2018, it shall meet all the requirements of Section 65850.01.
- (B) For the purposes of this section, if a community does not have a mandatory requirement as described in subparagraph (A), a locally adopted voluntary incentive-based program that grants a range of incentives to developments that include an objective and knowable amount of on-site affordable housing. The knowable amount of on-site affordable housing and number of incentives

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shall be calculated based on the project's proximity to different types of public transportation, and include proximity to both regular bus lines, bus rapid transit, and rail stations. In the case that a local inclusionary housing ordinance is a voluntary or incentive-based program as described in this subparagraph, on-site affordable housing requirements for a transit-rich housing project shall be calculated based on the height, density, floor area ratio, bulk, and automobile parking included in the final design of the transit-rich housing project.

- (3) The development proponent prepares and submits to the applicable local government a relocation assistance and benefits plan as described in subdivision (d) of Section 65918.8.
- (4) Except as specified in subdivision (a), the transit-rich housing project complies with all local objective zoning design standards that were in effect at the time that the applicant submits its first application to the local government pursuant to this section, except as provided in Section 65918.10, provided that those local zoning design standards shall not result in a FAR for the development that received the bonus that is less than the following:
- (A) 2.5 FAR for lots with a maximum height limit of 45 feet pursuant to this section.
- (B) 3.25 FAR for lots with a maximum height limit of 55 feet pursuant to this section.
- (C) 4.5 FAR for lots with a maximum height limit of 85 feet pursuant to this section.
- (5) Any locally adopted objective zoning standard that involves no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and is uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development applicant or proponent and public officials before the application is submitted, including but not limited to essential bulk and FAR requirements, except as specified in paragraph (4), codified design standards, and development fees.
- (6) Any locally adopted minimum unit mix requirements, provided that those requirements do not have the effect of requiring more than 40 percent of all units in a transit-rich housing project to have two bedrooms or more.
- (d) An eligible applicant who receives a transit-rich housing bonus pursuant to this section may also apply for a density bonus, incentive or concession, or waiver or reduction, pursuant to Section

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65915. For purposes of calculating any base development standard, including maximum allowable residential density, for purposes of granting a density bonus, incentive or concession, or a waiver or reduction of a development standard pursuant to that section, any transit-rich housing bonus granted pursuant to this chapter shall be used as that base development standard.

- (e) An eligible applicant who receives a transit-housing bonus pursuant to this section, and who requests a streamlined, ministerial, approval process pursuant to Section 65913.4, shall be deemed to be in compliance with local zoning requirements for purposes of determining eligibility pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4, and for purposes of enforcing legal protections for new developments under Section 65589.5.
- 65918.7. In the event that a transit-rich housing project is issued a demolition permit by a local government as described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 65918.6, the project shall comply with any state or local tenant relocation benefit and assistance program or ordinance serving residential tenants living in the units that will be demolished. Moreover, in the event that issuance of a demolition permit would result in the direct displacement of a residential tenant or tenants, the local government may not issue demolition permits for rental housing units as a part of the application for a transit-rich housing project, unless the development proponent complies with relocation benefits and assistance and a right to remain guarantee, as follows:
- (a) The development proponent prepares and submits a relocation assistance and benefits plan to the jurisdiction as described in subdivision (d) of Section 65918.8.
- (b) The development proponent offers all eligible displaced persons a right to remain guarantee that is a right of first refusal for a comparable unit in the transit-rich housing project after it finishes construction, and a new lease for that unit at a rate not to exceed the base rent defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (f) of Section 65918.9.
- 65918.8. (a) An eligible applicant that receives a transit-rich housing bonus shall comply with the procedures and requirements in this section in providing relocation benefits and a right to remain guarantee to any eligible displaced person.
- (b) For purposes of this chapter, "eligible displaced person" means the following:

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(1) Any person who occupies property that is located within the development, and who will become displaced by the development.

- (2) Any person who moves from property located within the boundaries of the development after an application for a development proposal subject to a transit-rich housing bonus is deemed complete.
- (c) An eligible applicant shall inform all eligible displaced persons regarding the projected date of displacement and, periodically, should inform those persons of any changes in the projected date of displacement.
- (d) A development proponent shall prepare a detailed relocation benefits and assistance plan, and submit that plan to the applicable local government for approval to determine whether the plan complies with the requirements of this section. That plan shall include all of the following:
 - (1) A diagrammatic sketch of the project area.
 - (2) Projected dates of displacement.
- (3) A written analysis of the aggregate relocation needs of all eligible displaced persons and a detailed explanation as to how these needs are to be met.
- (4) A written analysis of relocation housing resources, including vacancy rates of the neighborhood and surrounding areas.
- (5) A detailed description of relocation payments to be made and a plan for disbursement.
 - (6) A cost estimate for carrying out the plan.
- (7) A standard information statement to be sent to all eligible displaced persons who will be permanently displaced.
- (8) Plans for public review and comment on the development project and relocation benefits and assistance plan.
- (e) A development proponent shall provide notice of the relocation benefits and assistance plan to all eligible displaced persons at least 30 days before submitting the plan to the local government for approval pursuant to subdivision (d).
- (f) After the applicable local government approves the relocation benefits and assistance plan pursuant to subdivision (d), the eligible applicant shall do all the following:
 - (1) Notify all eligible displaced persons of the following:
 - (A) The availability of relocation benefits and assistance.
- 39 (B) The eligibility requirements of relocation benefits and 40 assistance.

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(C) The procedures for obtaining relocation benefits and assistance.

- (2) Determine the extent of the need of each eligible displaced person for relocation benefits and assistance.
- (3) Provide the current and continuing information on the availability, prices and rentals of comparable sales and rental housing, and as to security deposits, closing costs, typical down payments, interest rates, and terms for residential property in the area to all eligible displaced persons.
- (4) Assist each eligible displaced person to complete applications for payments and benefits.
- (5) Assist each eligible displaced person to obtain and move to a comparable replacement dwelling.
- (6) Supply to each eligible displaced person information concerning federal and state housing programs.
- (7) Inform all persons who are expected to be displaced about the eviction policies to be pursued in carrying out the project, which policies shall be in accordance with the relocation benefits and assistance plan approved pursuant to subdivision (d).
- (g) An eligible applicant's obligation to provide relocation benefits and assistance to an eligible displaced person shall cease if any of the following occurs:
- (1) An eligible displaced person moves to a comparable replacement dwelling and receives all assistance and payments to which he or she is entitled.
- (2) An eligible displaced person moves to substandard housing, refuses reasonable offers of additional assistance in moving to a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling, and receives all payments to which he or she entitled.
- (3) The eligible applicant has failed to trace or locate the eligible displaced person after making all reasonable efforts to do so.
- (4) An eligible displaced person from his or her dwelling refuses, in writing, reasonable offers of assistance, payments and comparable replacement housing.
- (h) An eligible applicant shall not evict an eligible displaced person from property, except as a last resort. If an eligible displaced person is evicted as a last resort pursuant to this subdivision, that eviction in no way affects the eligibility of that person for relocation payments.

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65918.9. An eligible applicant that receives a transit-rich housing bonus shall make relocation payments to or on behalf of eligible displaced persons that otherwise meets all basic eligibility conditions set out in Section 65918.8, for all actual reasonable expenses incurred for moving and related expenses to move themselves, their family, and their personal property, and for relocation benefits. In all cases, the amount of payment shall not exceed the reasonable cost of accomplishing the activity in connection with a claim that has been filed. In making payments under this section, the eligible applicant shall comply with all of the following:

- (a) For purposes of this section, "moving and related expenses" include all of the following:
- (1) Transportation of persons and property, not to exceed a distance of 50 miles from the site from which they were displaced, except where relocation beyond 50 miles is justified.
- (2) Packing, crating, unpacking and uncrating personal property.
- (3) Storage of personal property, for a period not to exceed 12 months.
 - (4) Insurance of personal property while in storage or transit.
- (5) The reasonable replacement value of property lost, stolen or damaged (not through the fault or negligence of the displaced person, his agent, or employee) in the process of moving, where insurance covering such loss, theft or damage is not reasonably available. A claim for payment hereunder shall be supported by written evidence of loss which may include appraisals, certified prices, bills of sale, receipts, canceled checks, copies of advertisements, offers to sell, auction records, and other records appropriate to support the claim.
- (b) An eligible applicant may pay an eligible displaced person for their anticipated moving expenses in advance of the actual move. An eligible applicant shall provide advance payment as described in this subdivision whenever later payment would result in financial hardship to the eligible displaced person. In determining financial hardship for purposes of this subdivision, particular consideration shall be given to the financial limitations and difficulties experienced by low and moderate income persons.
- (c) This section does not preclude an eligible applicant from relying upon other reasonable means of relocating an eligible

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displaced person, including contracting to have that eligible displaced person moved to satisfy the requirements of this section, and arranging for assignment of moving expense payments by eligible displaced persons.

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- (d) An eligible displaced person who elects to self-move may submit a claim for their moving and related expenses to the eligible applicant in an amount not to exceed an acceptable low bid or an amount acceptable to the displacing entity. An eligible displaced person is not required to provide documentation of moving expenses actually incurred.
- (e) Except in cases of a displaced person conducting a self-move as provided in subdivision (d) above, an eligible displaced person who submits a claim for relocation payments under this section shall include a bill or other evidence of expenses incurred. An eligible applicant may enter into a written arrangement with the eligible displaced person and the mover so that the eligible displaced person may present to the eligible applicant an unpaid moving bill, and the eligible applicant can then pay the mover directly for any moving expenses incurred.
- (f) For purposes of this section, "relocation benefits" means a payment of an amount necessary to enable that person to lease or rent a replacement dwelling for a period not to exceed 42 months, as follows:
- (1) The amount of payment necessary to lease or rent a comparable replacement dwelling shall be computed by subtracting 42 times the base monthly rental of the displaced person, from 42 times the monthly rental for a comparable replacement dwelling, provided, that in no case may such amount exceed the difference between 42 times the base monthly rental as determined in accordance with this subdivision and 42 times the monthly rental actually required for the replacement dwelling occupied by the eligible displaced person.
- (2) The base monthly rental shall be the lesser of the average monthly rental paid by the eligible displaced person for the three-month period before the eligible applicant submitted the relocation benefits and assistance plan pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 65918.8, or 30 percent of the eligible displaced person's average monthly income.
- (3) A dependent who is residing separate and apart from the person or family providing support, whether that residence is

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permanent or temporary shall be entitled to payment under this section, but that payment shall be limited to the period during which the displaced dependent resides in the replacement dwelling. At the time the displaced dependent vacates that dwelling, no further payment under this section shall be made to that person.

- (4) Except where specifically provided otherwise, the eligible applicant may disburse payments for relocation benefits under this section in a lump sum, monthly or at other intervals acceptable to the displaced person.
- (g) Upon request by an eligible displaced person who has not yet purchased and occupied a replacement dwelling, but who is otherwise eligible for a replacement housing payment, the eligible applicant shall certify to any interested party, financial institution, or lending agency, that the eligible displaced person will be eligible for the payment of a specific sum if they purchase and occupy a dwelling within the time limits prescribed.
- 65918.10. (a) If, on or after January 1, 2018, a local government adopts an ordinance that eliminates residential zoning designations or decreases residential zoning development capacity within an existing zoning district in which the development is located than what was authorized on January 1, 2018, then that development shall be deemed to be consistent with any applicable requirement of this chapter if it complies with zoning designations that were authorized as of January 1, 2018.
- (b) The Department of Housing and Community Development may, at any time, review any new or revised zoning or design standards after the operative date of the act adding this section to determine if those local standards are consistent with the requirements of this section. If the department determines that those standards are inconsistent, the department shall issue, in a form and manner provided by the department, a finding of inconsistency, and those standards shall be rendered invalid and unenforceable as of the date that finding is issued.
- SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

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SEC. 2. Section 65917.7 is added to the Government Code, to read:

- 65917.7. (a) As used in this section, the following definitions shall apply:
- (1) "Block" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 5870 of the Streets and Highways Code.
- (2) "High-quality transit corridor" means a corridor with fixed route bus service that has service intervals of no more than 15 minutes during peak commute hours.
- (3) "Transit-rich housing project" means a residential development project the parcels of which are all within a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a high-quality transit corridor. A project shall be deemed to be within a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a high-quality transit corridor if both of the following apply:
- (A) All parcels within the project have no more than 25 percent of their area outside of a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a high-quality transit corridor.
- (B) No more than 10 percent of the residential units or 100 units, whichever is less, of the project are outside of a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a high-quality transit corridor.
- (4) "Major transit stop" has the same meaning as defined in Section 21064.3 of the Public Resources Code.
- (b) Notwithstanding any local ordinance, general plan element, specific plan, charter, or other local law, policy, resolution, or regulation, a transit-rich housing project shall receive a transit-rich housing bonus which shall exempt the project from all of the following:
 - (1) Maximum controls on residential density or floor area ratio.
- (2) Minimum automobile parking requirements.
- (3) Any design standard that restricts the applicant's ability to construct the maximum number of units consistent with any applicable building code.
- (4) (A) If the transit-rich housing project is within either a one-quarter mile radius of a high-quality transit corridor or within one block of a major transit stop, any maximum height limitation that is less than 85 feet, except in cases where a parcel facing a street that is less than 45 feet wide from curb to curb, in which

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case the maximum height shall not be less than 55 feet. If the project is exempted from the local maximum height limitation, the governing height limitation for a transit-rich housing project shall be 85 feet or 55 feet, as provided in this subparagraph.

- (B) If the transit-rich housing project is within one-half mile of a major transit stop, but does not meet the criteria specified in subparagraph (A), any maximum height limitation that is less than 55 feet, except in cases where a parcel facing a street that is less than 45 feet wide from curb to curb, in which case the maximum height shall not be less than 45 feet. If the project is exempted from the local maximum height limitation, the governing height limitation for a transit-rich housing project shall be 55 feet or 45 feet, as provided in this subparagraph.
- (C) For purposes of this paragraph, if a parcel has street frontage on two or more different streets, the height maximum pursuant to this paragraph shall be based on the widest street.
- SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.