

California State Senate

SENATOR
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



SB 619 – Support for Statewide Organic Waste Diversion

SUMMARY

Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery (CalRecycle) in consultation with the California Air Resources Board to adopt regulations to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants in the state to achieve a reduction in statewide emissions of methane by 40%.

The SB 1383 Organic Waste Diversion Regulations, released by CalRecycle on November 3, 2020 to accomplish this goal will take effect on January 1, 2022.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SB 619 seeks limited relief for special circumstances while ensuring climate goals are met.

BACKGROUND

Local jurisdictions have been provided 13 months to undertake a host of actions to adopt ordinances, arrange for appropriate collection services, establish inspection and enforcement programs, procure recovered organic waste products, provide education and outreach, develop edible food recovery programs, hire staff, and report to CalRecycle by the January 1, 2022 implementation date.

Additionally, CalRecycle estimates the regulations could cost as much as \$40 billion to implement over the next ten years and will require the construction of as many as 100 new organic waste recycling facilities over that period.

PROBLEM

These new requirements and the compressed implementation schedule come at a time when local jurisdictions are responding to the COVID -19

pandemic that has had a devastating impact on local revenues, significantly cutting local budgets.

Beginning January 1, 2022, CalRecycle may issue fines to local jurisdictions for non-compliance ranging from \$50 to \$10,000 per day.

Currently, the vast majority of local jurisdictions are working to create suitable programs for organics diversion, obtain the necessary approvals of programs and costs to ratepayers through elected bodies, award contracts, and ultimately achieve the goals established by SB 1383.

It is imperative to provide adequate time and resources for local jurisdictions to design and implement thoughtful and successful organic waste recycling programs.

THIS BILL

SB 619 supports continued efforts by local jurisdictions to achieve statewide organic waste recycling targets and climate goals.