

**Introduced by Senator Dodd**December 7, 2020

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An act to amend Section 8557 of the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 52, as introduced, Dodd. State of emergency: local emergency: sudden and severe energy shortage: planned power outage.

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, authorizes the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency, and local officials and local governments to proclaim a local emergency, when specified conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist, and authorizes the Governor or the appropriate local government to exercise certain powers in response to that emergency. Existing law defines the terms "state of emergency" and "local emergency" to mean a duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state or the territorial limits of a local government caused by, among other things, a sudden and severe energy shortage. Existing law defines a "sudden and severe energy shortage" as a rapid, unforeseen shortage of energy, resulting from, but not limited to, events such as an embargo, sabotage, or natural disasters, and that has statewide, regional, or local impact.

This bill would expand the definition of "sudden and severe energy shortage" to include a "deenergization event," defined as a planned power outage, as specified, and would make a deenergization event one of those conditions constituting a state of emergency and a local emergency.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 8557 of the Government Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 8557. (a) “State agency” means any department, division,  
4 independent establishment, or agency of the executive branch of  
5 the state government.

6 (b) “Political subdivision” includes any city, city and county,  
7 county, district, or other local governmental agency or public  
8 agency authorized by law.

9 (c) “Governing body” means the legislative body, trustees, or  
10 directors of a political subdivision.

11 (d) “Chief executive” means that individual authorized by law  
12 to act for the governing body of a political subdivision.

13 (e) “Disaster council” and “disaster service worker” have the  
14 meaning prescribed in Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 3201)  
15 of Part 1 of Division 4 of the Labor Code.

16 (f) “Public facility” means any facility of the state or a political  
17 subdivision, which facility is owned, operated, or maintained, or  
18 any combination thereof, through moneys derived by taxation or  
19 assessment.

20 ~~(g) “Sudden and severe energy shortage” means a rapid,  
21 unforeseen shortage of energy, resulting from, but not limited to,  
22 events such as an embargo, sabotage, or natural disasters, and  
23 which has statewide, regional, or local impact.~~

24 (g) *“Sudden and severe energy shortage” means either of the  
25 following:*

26 *(1) A rapid, unforeseen shortage of energy, resulting from, but  
27 not limited to, events such as an embargo, sabotage, or natural  
28 disasters, and that has statewide, regional, or local impact.*

29 *(2) A deenergization event.*

30 *(h) For purposes of this section, a “deenergization event” means  
31 a planned power outage, undertaken by an electrical corporation,  
32 as defined in Section 218 of the Public Utilities Code, to reduce  
33 the risk of wildfires caused by utility equipment, pursuant to Public  
34 Utilities Commission Resolution ESRB-8 and any decisions issued  
35 by the commission, the Wildfire Safety Division, as set forth in  
36 Section 326 of the Public Utilities Code, the Office of Energy  
37 Infrastructure Safety, or any other agency with authority over  
38 electrical corporations. A deenergization event commences when*

1 *an electrical corporation provides notice to any state agency or*  
2 *political subdivision of the potential need to initiate a planned*  
3 *deenergization of the electrical grid, and ceases when the electrical*  
4 *corporation restores electrical services to all deenergized*  
5 *customers, or at such time as the electrical corporation cancels*  
6 *the deenergization event for some or all of its affected customers,*  
7 *and rescinds the notice of the potential need to initiate the*  
8 *deenergization event.*

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