



# LETICIA CASTILLO

## 58TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

### **ABX1-14: Generators: air pollution regulations: income tax credits.**

#### **IN BRIEF:**

Assembly Bill X1-14 would, during a proclaimed state of emergency issued by the Governor resulting in a loss of electrical service, permit the purchase of portable or emergency backup generators that are not compliant with State Air Resources Board regulations. Additionally, the bill would also permit the purchase of a portable or emergency backup generator costing up to \$7,000 to be filed as a tax write-off beginning on January 1, 2026.

#### **EXISTING LAW:**

Existing law requires the State Air Resources Board to prohibit portable or emergency backup generators that are not compliant with state board regulations. Furthermore, current regulation permits the state board to make commercial rebates and other incentives available to support the transition to zero-emission equipment operations.

#### **THE ISSUE:**

In January 2025, a historic windstorm hit Southern California resulting in devastating fires across the region. In an effort to mitigate the threat of wildfires, Southern California Edison (SCE) issued Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) that left many residents in San Bernardino and Riverside counties without power for extended periods of time.

Residents in Grand Terrace and Jurupa Valley were without power for up to 8 days. These power outages posed serious threats to the health and well-being of vulnerable populations that rely on electricity to power life-sustaining medical equipment, and families were forced to discard food due to the loss of refrigeration. Residents who were eager to provide power for their family faced obstacles when attempting to purchase portable generators, citing restrictions on their purchase due to State Air Resources Board regulations.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) have increased due to the increased threat of wildfires and residents have been encouraged to purchase other means of supplying energy to their homes in the event of a prolonged power outage. In an effort to ease the financial burden on residents, SCE and Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) provide a rebate program for the purchase of generators, however, many of the generators residents have purchased did not qualify for the rebate. Overall, PSPS have resulted in an increased strain on the budgets of California residents who are already dealing with the state's high cost of living.

#### **THE SOLUTION:**

ABX1-14 would remove barriers to purchasing portable generators for their homes during a proclaimed state of emergency and improve affordability by giving residents the opportunity to write off the purchase of a portable or emergency backup generator. By temporarily suspending

state board regulations during a state of emergency, residents would be able to purchase the generator that best fits their needs without dealing with the hurdles that state regulations present. Additionally, a tax write-off for the purchase of a generator provides financial relief for residents who are adversely affected by emergencies rendering them without power.

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