



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

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Fact Sheet

PROPOSED BILL

AB 588 establishes a lithium battery safety working group within the Office of the State Fire Marshal to address increasing battery fire safety risks associated with the increase in electric vehicle (EV) charging and commercial lithium battery storage. This group will provide practical guidance, best practices, and educational materials to help Fire Marshals, local officials, property owners, and builders safely implement and manage lithium-ion battery storage technology.

BACKGROUND

California's aggressive green energy policies are driving the widespread installation of EV charging infrastructure in residential, commercial, and public properties. Businesses, property owners, and local jurisdictions are being tasked with deploying this infrastructure at a rapid pace to meet state mandates. California is a global leader in the number of commercial and residential lithium-ion battery storage systems and is second only to China with respect to electric vehicle adoption.

While this transition is critical for environmental goals, it introduces unique fire safety considerations, particularly regarding the safe placement and management of lithium battery systems within buildings and facilities. Currently, no centralized, statewide guidance exists to assist local jurisdictions, Fire Marshals, property owners, and builders in safely integrating these technologies.

PROBLEM

Without clear statewide resources or recommendations, Fire Marshals and local officials are left to individually evaluate safety protocols for EV charging infrastructure. This often results in varied practices across jurisdictions—not due to lack of expertise, but because they're navigating evolving technology without consistent tools or guidance. Property owners and businesses, likewise, face

uncertainty as they try to comply with both fire safety standards and state green energy requirements.

AB 588 addresses this challenge head-on by proactively supporting local fire officials and stakeholders with the information and resources they need before any safety incidents occur.

SOLUTION

AB 588 establishes a lithium battery safety working group under the Office of the State Fire Marshal to identify and address fire safety concerns related to EV charging infrastructure. Bringing together a broad range of perspectives—including fire service leaders and rank-and-file firefighters, academic experts in lithium battery chemistry, local building officials, and commercial property owners—the effort will provide well-informed, practical recommendations. Its focus will include developing educational materials, guidance documents, and best practice bulletins, with the goal of reducing or mitigating fire risks through practical, cost-effective solutions that enhance safety and improve predictability across jurisdictions.

SUPPORT

California Business Properties Association (Sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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