

**Introduced by Senator Richardson**

February 21, 2025

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An act to add and repeal Section 12893.1 of the Government Code, relating to workforce development.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 826, as introduced, Richardson. California Workforce Development Board: port automation.

Prior law, until January 1, 2024, required the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the California Workforce Development Board to oversee a stakeholder process to develop recommendations on how best to mitigate the employment impacts of automation at the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach. That prior law created an industry panel consisting of 10 members, as specified, within the agency to inform the stakeholder process. That prior law authorized the California Workforce Development Board to contract the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Labor Center to facilitate implementation and authorized the UCLA Labor Center to commission expert research and testimony to supplement the stakeholder process. That prior law required the industry panel to provide an annual update on the stakeholder process at a regularly scheduled meeting of the California Workforce Development Board. That prior law required the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the California Workforce Development Board, upon the completion of the stakeholder process, but not later than July 1, 2023, to issue findings and recommendations on the most effective ways to implement policies and programs to mitigate the employment impacts of automation and the transitioning of seaport operations to low- and zero-emission operations on workers and individuals living in communities adjacent to the ports.

This bill would reinstate the above-described provisions until January 1, 2029, to determine how to best mitigate national security, cybersecurity, workforce, and economic impacts of automation at California seaports. The bill would instead create an industry panel consisting of 17 members, as specified. The bill would require the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the California Workforce Development Board, upon the completion of the stakeholder process, but not later than July 1, 2027, to issue findings and recommendations, as described above. The bill would condition the implementation of these provisions on an appropriation by the Legislature for this express purpose.

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. The Legislature finds and declares that seaports  
2 have increasingly come to rely on automated forms of information  
3 and operational technology. This digital dependence introduces  
4 vulnerabilities that, in the event of a cyberattack, could cause severe  
5 consequences and long-term damage. Further, the use of such  
6 automated technology leads to negative workforce and economic  
7 impacts.

8 SEC. 2. Section 12893.1 is added to the Government Code, to  
9 read:

10 12893.1. (a) (1) The Labor and Workforce Development  
11 Agency and the California Workforce Development Board shall  
12 oversee a stakeholder process to support the development of  
13 findings and recommendations on how to best mitigate the national  
14 security, cybersecurity, workforce, and economic impacts of  
15 automation at California seaports. To help inform the stakeholder  
16 process, an industry panel is hereby created in the agency.

17 (2) The California Workforce Development Board may contract  
18 with University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Labor Center  
19 to perform the actions described in subdivision (e).

20 (b) (1) The industry panel shall consist of the following  
21 members:

22 (A) Fifteen members appointed by the Secretary of Labor and  
23 Workforce Development as follows:

1       (i) Six members from employee unions that represent marine  
2 cargo handlers at the Port of Los Angeles, the Port of Long Beach,  
3 and the Port of Oakland.

4       (ii) Six members who are representatives of marine cargo  
5 employers operating at the Port of Los Angeles, the Port of Long  
6 Beach, and the Port of Oakland.

7       (iii) The Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles or the  
8 executive director's designee.

9       (iv) The Executive Director of the Port of Long Beach or the  
10 executive director's designee.

11       (v) The Executive Director of the Port of Oakland or the  
12 executive director's designee.

13       (B) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly  
14 with experience in national security, cybersecurity, workforce  
15 development, and seaports.

16       (C) One member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules  
17 with experience in national security, cybersecurity, workforce  
18 development, and seaports.

19       (2) (A) Each member shall be appointed to a term of three  
20 years.

21       (B) A member who fails to attend two industry panel meetings  
22 in one calendar year shall be deemed removed from the industry  
23 panel, and the appointing power for that member shall appoint a  
24 new member to fill the vacancy.

25       (3) Industry panel members shall not receive per diem or other  
26 similar compensation for serving as an industry panel member.

27       (c) (1) The industry panel shall invite stakeholders and subject  
28 matter experts to participate in the stakeholder process, including  
29 port districts, public agencies, labor organizations, shipping  
30 companies, marine-oriented trade associations, nonprofit  
31 organizations, and workforce development, economic, national  
32 security, and cybersecurity entities.

33       (2) As appropriate, the costs of the industry panel and the  
34 stakeholder process may be reduced by in-kind or other  
35 contributions from third parties.

36       (d) (1) During the process, representatives from the Labor and  
37 Workforce Development Agency and from the California  
38 Workforce Development Board and members of the industry panel  
39 shall consider issues, including, but not limited to, national security  
40 and cybersecurity vulnerabilities that result from the use of

1 automated technology at seaports, associated economic  
2 consequences, including, but not limited to, workforce and  
3 economic impacts that result from the use of automated technology  
4 at seaports, short and long-term damage, and recommendations to  
5 reduce these risks to seaports.

6 (2) (A) The first meeting of the stakeholder process shall be  
7 held on or before 90 days after the funding becomes available for  
8 the purposes of this section.

9 (B) After the first meeting, the meetings of the stakeholder  
10 process shall be held no less than monthly in person or by video  
11 conference

12 (e) The UCLA Labor Center may commission expert research  
13 and testimony to supplement the stakeholder process and support  
14 the development of findings and recommendations pursuant to this  
15 section.

16 (f) The industry panel shall provide an annual update of the  
17 stakeholder process at a regularly scheduled meeting of the  
18 California Workforce Development Board.

19 (g) Upon completion of the stakeholder process, but by no later  
20 than July 1, 2027, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency  
21 and the California Workforce Development Board shall issue  
22 findings and recommendations on the most effective ways to limit  
23 the national security cybersecurity vulnerabilities, workforce and  
24 economic impacts, and risks to seaports.

25 (h) This section shall be implemented only upon an  
26 appropriation by the Legislature for the express purposes of this  
27 section.

28 (i) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2029,  
29 and as of that date is repealed.

30 SEC. 3. On or before December 31, 2027, the California  
31 Workforce Development Board shall present at a hearing of the  
32 Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies the  
33 findings and recommendations of the report.