An act to add and repeal Section 99174 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 2304, as amended, Holden. Transit—Reduced fare transit pass programs: status report.

The California Constitution provides that the University of California constitutes a public trust administered by the Regents of the University of California, a corporation in the form of a board, with full powers of organization and government, subject to legislative control only for specified purposes.

Existing law declares that the fostering, continuance, and development of public transportation systems are a matter of statewide concern. Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to administer various programs and allocates moneys for various public transportation purposes, imposes various requirements on transit operators and provides funding for transit services and capital improvements.

This bill would require the department to request the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and specified committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2022, on the status of transit pass programs statewide, 2020, that details the reduced fare transit pass programs in California that are administered by a public transit operator, California college or university, or any other entity, as specified.
SECTION 1. Section 99174 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

99174. (a) On or before January 1, 2022, the Department of Transportation shall submit a report on the status of transit pass programs statewide. The University of California Institute of Transportation Studies is requested to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and to the fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature that oversee transportation programs, on or before January 1, 2020, that details reduced fare transit pass programs in California that are administered by a public transit operator, California college or university, or any other entity.

(b) The report shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) The number of free or reduced-fare transit passes provided to pupils and students.

(2) Whether those programs have increased transit ridership among eligible pupils and students.

(3) An assessment of how many transit operators and schools statewide have transit pass programs.

(4) An assessment of how many transit operators and schools statewide do not have transit pass programs.

(5) Recommendations to expand transit pass programs statewide to ensure that each pupil or student meeting certain eligibility equipments, as determined by the department, has access to a transit pass program:

(1) An assessment of reduced fare transit pass programs that are administered by public transit operators, including eligibility for each program and how each program is funded.

(2) An assessment of reduced fare transit pass programs that are administered by other entities, such as universities, colleges, and private businesses, including eligibility for each program and how each program is funded.

(3) An assessment of whether each program described in paragraph (1) or (2) has contributed to increased transit ridership among eligible recipients.
(4) An assessment of the available funding sources for reduced fare transit pass programs.

(5) A discussion of any negative fiscal impacts on public transit operators relating to the offering of reduced fare transit pass programs, including farebox recovery ratios.

(c) The report required to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted to those committees of the Legislature in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2021, and as of that date is repealed.