



COUNCIL AGENDA: 5/21/2019

ITEM: 2.27

FILE NO: 19-387

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Toni J. Taber, CMC  
City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** May 21, 2019

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**SUBJECT: AB 857 (Chiu and Santiago): Public Banks.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

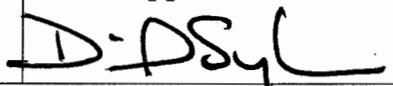
As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on May 15, 2019, adopt a support if amended position on AB 857 (Chiu and Santiago) on public banks.

CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organizational & Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment. (City Manager)

[Rules Committee referral 5/15/19 - Item G.3]



**CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUEST**

<b>Departments:</b> Finance City Manager's Office	<b>Date:</b> 5/8/19	<b>Coordination:</b> City Attorney's Office	<b>Dept. Approval:</b> /s/ Julia H. Cooper /s/ Lee Wilcox  <b>CMO Approval:</b> 
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**SUBJECT: AB 857 (CHIU AND SANTIAGO): PUBLIC BANKS**

**RECOMMENDED POSITION:** Support if Amended

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Adopt a support if amended position on AB 857 (Chiu and Santiago) on public banks.
2. Recommend this item be agendized for the May 21, 2019 City Council Meeting so that the City's Legislative Representatives can advocate the City's position for AB 857.

**BILL SYNOPSIS:**

AB 857 (Chiu and Santiago) would set state rules around public banks and allow a local government or two or more local governments together to charter its own public bank to provide banking services to the local community. Local governments include a city, county, or a joint powers authority. The public bank would identify in its articles of incorporation either a social purpose or a public benefit such as supporting community economic development, addressing local infrastructure and housing needs, and providing banking services to the unbanked or underbanked. AB 857 requires public banks to obtain and maintain Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance, and to comply with all requirements of the Financial Institutions Law and the Banking Law. The bill authorizes a public bank to engage in a variety of banking activities including infrastructure lending, wholesale lending, participation lending, and retail lending.

Recent amendments to AB 857 also require that the local jurisdiction undertake a feasibility study that includes the reasons for forming a public bank, the costs of forming a public bank, an estimate of the initial amount of capital needed, financial projections, a legal analysis on the whether or not a public bank complies with the state constitution, and an analysis on how the governance structure would protect the bank from insider transactions and conflicts of interest. The study may also examine the fiscal and qualitative benefits of a public bank, current fees paid to traditional banks, and the cost of staying with a traditional bank.

**IMPACTS TO CITY OF SAN JOSE:**

AB 857 provides a state framework for any local jurisdiction(s) that would like to form a public bank. The bill includes useful controls including FDIC insurance and a comprehensive feasibility study to guide local governments that wish to establish a public bank. This framework would be helpful if the City decides in the future to pursue a public bank. There is only one public bank operating at scale in the United States, the Bank of North Dakota. The Assembly Banking and Finance Committee analysis of the bill states that although several local and state governments have explored public banks, feasibility studies "often find significant start-up costs and high levels of financial and operational risk association with public banks."

Staff committed to providing the Council with a summary of feasibility analysis and reports prepared by other local agencies on the viability of a local public bank. Staff expects to provide this work to the Council by June 2020 in conjunction with recommendations on how to proceed with a banking services Request for Proposals. Preliminary research suggests that the type of capital needed to establish a public bank can be cost prohibitive for a single city. Instead, economies of scale argue that a state or federal public bank with a greater pool of resources may be more viable.

The Administration recommends a support if amended position because AB 857 does not propose a state public bank. In the 2011-2012 legislative session, Assemblymember Hueso introduced AB 2500 to establish a public state bank, but the policy committee did not hear the bill at the request of the author. The Council may wish to ask the authors to amend AB 857 to create a state public bank in addition to providing a framework for local government public banks.

**POLICY ALIGNMENT:**

AB 857 aligns with the Legislative Guiding Principle to “protect and increase funding to deliver city services, build infrastructure, and serve the San Jose community” and “protect local control.”

**SUPPORTERS/OPPONENTS:**

**Supporters**

350 Bay Area Action  
350 Conejo San Fernando Valley  
350 Riverside  
350 Santa Cruz  
350 Silicon Valley  
350 South Bay Los Angeles  
AFSCME Council 57  
Alliance for Community Transit – Los Angeles  
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Action  
American Indian Movement SoCal  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
Backbone Campaign  
Beneficial State Foundation  
California Environmental Justice Alliance  
California Faculty Association, San Francisco State University  
California Nurses Association  
California Progressive Alliance  
California Public Banking Alliance (sponsor)  
California Reinvestment Coalition  
Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, Santa Cruz  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice  
City and County of San Francisco  
Mayor Jesse Arreguin, City of Berkeley  
City of Los Angeles  
City of Oakland  
Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth  
Commonomics  
Communities for a Better Environment

Community Financial Resources  
Cooperation Humboldt, Eureka  
Courage Campaign  
Democracy Collaborative  
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley  
Democratic Socialists of America, Los Angeles  
Divest LA  
Friends of the Earth  
Fossil Free California  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
Green Party of Santa Clara County  
Healthcare for All  
Home It  
Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club  
Idle No More – San Francisco Bay  
Indivisible California, CA-33  
Indivisible California Green Team  
Indivisible CA: Statestrong  
Indivisible East Bay  
Indivisible Los Angeles, CA-43  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area  
Local Clean Energy Alliance  
Los Angeles County Democratic Party  
Mcgee-Spaulding Neighbors in Action  
Media Alliance  
NAACP, Santa Cruz Chapter  
Orange County Poor Peoples Campaign  
Our Revolution Long Beach  
People for Public Banking Santa Cruz  
People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights  
Progressive Asian Network for Action  
Public Bank East Bay  
Public Bank Los Angeles  
Public Bank San Diego  
Public Bank Santa Barbara  
Public Banking Institute  
Resistance – Northridge, Indivisible  
Revolution LA  
San Francisco Berniecrats  
San Francisco Living Wage Coalition  
San Francisco Public Bank Coalition  
San Francisco Rising  
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network  
Santa Cruz for Bernie  
SEIU State Council  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
South Bay Progressive Alliance  
Sunrise Movement Los Angeles  
Sustainable Economics Law Center  
Unites Educators of San Francisco  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

**Opponents**

Bay Area Council  
California Association of County Treasurers & Tax Collectors  
California Bankers Association  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Community Banking Network  
California Credit Union League  
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

**STATUS OF BILL:**

AB 857 passed out of the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 24, 2019, and is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:** Bena Chang, Intergovernmental Relations, 408-975-3240.

## Attachments:

Bill Text  
Committee Analysis

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2019

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2019

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 857**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Chiu and Santiago**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Kalra, Mark Stone, Ting, and Wicks)*  
*(Coauthors: Senators Beall, Skinner, and Wiener)*

February 20, 2019

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An act to amend Section 119 of the Financial Code, and to amend Sections 23007, 53601, 53635, and 53635.2 of, and to add Division 5 (commencing with Section 57600) to Title 5 of, the Government Code, and to add Section 23701aa to the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to public banks.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 857, as amended, Chiu. Public banks.

Existing law, the Financial Institutions Law, regulates the activities of various financial entities, including commercial banks, industrial banks, trust companies, credit unions, and savings associations. The Banking Law defines and regulates state banks and commits the enforcement of banking laws to the Commissioner of Business Oversight.

Existing law prohibits a county from giving or loaning its credit to, or in aid of, any person or corporation. Existing law requires a local agency, as defined, to deposit all money belonging to, or in the custody of that local agency, into specified state or national banks, as defined. Existing law regulates the investment of public funds by local agencies.

Existing law generally governs benefit corporations and requires that a benefit corporation make an annual report to shareholders, as specified. Existing law, the Social Purpose Corporations Act, generally governs social purpose corporations and requires that a social purpose corporation make a specified annual report to shareholders.

This bill would define the term “bank” for purposes of the Financial Institutions Law and the Banking Law to include a public bank. The bill would define the term “public bank” to mean a corporation, organized for the purpose of engaging in the commercial banking business or industrial banking business, that is wholly owned by a local agency, local agencies, a joint powers authority, or a special district.

The bill would require a public bank to comply with all requirements of the Financial Institutions Law and the Banking Law and to obtain and maintain insurance, subject to specified requirements. *The bill would require a local agency to conduct and approve, as specified, a study of the viability of a public bank containing specified elements before submitting an application to the commissioner to organize and establish a public bank.* The bill would authorize a county to lend its credit to a public bank. The bill would also authorize a local agency to deposit funds in a public bank, and to invest in a public bank, subject to certain requirements.

The bill would further require a public bank to identify in its articles of incorporation either a special purpose or a special public benefit. The bill would authorize, but not require, a public bank to incorporate as a benefit corporation or a social purpose corporation but would require a public bank to comply with the reporting requirements to which a social benefit or social purpose corporation are held, as specified.

The Corporation Tax Law imposes a franchise tax on financial corporations, but provides that the tax is in lieu of all other state and local taxes and licenses, with certain exceptions. That law also exempts specified classes of entities from the franchise and income taxes imposed by that law, including state-chartered credit unions.

This bill would additionally exempt from those franchise and income taxes any public bank. This bill would also exempt a public bank from all other state and local taxes and licenses, with certain exceptions.

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. It is the intent of the Legislature that this act  
2 authorize the lending of public credit to public banks and authorize  
3 public ownership of stock in public banks for the purpose of  
4 achieving cost savings, strengthening local economies, supporting  
5 community economic development, and addressing infrastructure  
6 and housing needs for localities.

7 SEC. 2. Section 119 of the Financial Code is amended to read:

8 119. "Bank" or "banks" includes a public bank, as defined in  
9 Section 57600 of the Government Code, commercial banks,  
10 industrial banks, and trust companies unless the context otherwise  
11 requires. However, "bank" does not include a savings association  
12 or a credit union.

13 SEC. 3. Section 23007 of the Government Code is amended  
14 to read:

15 23007. Except as specified in this chapter, a county shall not,  
16 in any manner, give or loan its credit to or in aid of any person or  
17 corporation that is not a public bank, as defined in Section 57600.  
18 An indebtedness or liability incurred contrary to this chapter is  
19 void.

20 SEC. 4. Section 53601 of the Government Code is amended  
21 to read:

22 53601. This section shall apply to a local agency that is a city,  
23 a district, or other local agency that does not pool money in  
24 deposits or investments with other local agencies, other than local  
25 agencies that have the same governing body. However, Section  
26 53635 shall apply to all local agencies that pool money in deposits  
27 or investments with other local agencies that have separate  
28 governing bodies. The legislative body of a local agency having  
29 moneys in a sinking fund or moneys in its treasury not required  
30 for the immediate needs of the local agency may invest any portion  
31 of the moneys that it deems wise or expedient in those investments  
32 set forth below. A local agency purchasing or obtaining any  
33 securities prescribed in this section, in a negotiable, bearer,  
34 registered, or nonregistered format, shall require delivery of the  
35 securities to the local agency, including those purchased for the  
36 agency by financial advisers, consultants, or managers using the  
37 agency's funds, by book entry, physical delivery, or by third-party  
38 custodial agreement. The transfer of securities to the counterparty



1 bank's customer book entry account may be used for book entry  
2 delivery.

3 For purposes of this section, "counterparty" means the other  
4 party to the transaction. A counterparty bank's trust department  
5 or separate safekeeping department may be used for the physical  
6 delivery of the security if the security is held in the name of the  
7 local agency. Where this section specifies a percentage limitation  
8 for a particular category of investment, that percentage is applicable  
9 only at the date of purchase. Where this section does not specify  
10 a limitation on the term or remaining maturity at the time of the  
11 investment, no investment shall be made in any security, other  
12 than a security underlying a repurchase or reverse repurchase  
13 agreement or securities lending agreement authorized by this  
14 section, that at the time of the investment has a term remaining to  
15 maturity in excess of five years, unless the legislative body has  
16 granted express authority to make that investment either  
17 specifically or as a part of an investment program approved by the  
18 legislative body no less than three months prior to the investment:

19 (a) Bonds issued by the local agency, including bonds payable  
20 solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property  
21 owned, controlled, or operated by the local agency or by a  
22 department, board, agency, or authority of the local agency.

23 (b) United States Treasury notes, bonds, bills, or certificates of  
24 indebtedness, or those for which the faith and credit of the United  
25 States are pledged for the payment of principal and interest.

26 (c) Registered state warrants or treasury notes or bonds of this  
27 state, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a  
28 revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by the  
29 state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of the state.

30 (d) Registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the other 49  
31 states in addition to California, including bonds payable solely out  
32 of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned,  
33 controlled, or operated by a state or by a department, board, agency,  
34 or authority of any of the other 49 states, in addition to California.

35 (e) Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness  
36 of a local agency within this state, including bonds payable solely  
37 out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned,  
38 controlled, or operated by the local agency, or by a department,  
39 board, agency, or authority of the local agency.

1 (f) Federal agency or United States government-sponsored  
2 enterprise obligations, participations, or other instruments,  
3 including those issued by or fully guaranteed as to principal and  
4 interest by federal agencies or United States government-sponsored  
5 enterprises.

6 (g) Bankers' acceptances otherwise known as bills of exchange  
7 or time drafts that are drawn on and accepted by a commercial  
8 bank. Purchases of bankers' acceptances shall not exceed 180  
9 days' maturity or 40 percent of the agency's moneys that may be  
10 invested pursuant to this section. However, no more than 30 percent  
11 of the agency's moneys may be invested in the bankers'  
12 acceptances of any one commercial bank pursuant to this section.

13 This subdivision does not preclude a municipal utility district  
14 from investing moneys in its treasury in a manner authorized by  
15 the Municipal Utility District Act (Division 6 (commencing with  
16 Section 11501) of the Public Utilities Code).

17 (h) Commercial paper of "prime" quality of the highest ranking  
18 or of the highest letter and number rating as provided for by a  
19 nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO).  
20 The entity that issues the commercial paper shall meet all of the  
21 following conditions in either paragraph (1) or (2):

22 (1) The entity meets the following criteria:

23 (A) Is organized and operating in the United States as a general  
24 corporation.

25 (B) Has total assets in excess of five hundred million dollars  
26 (\$500,000,000).

27 (C) Has debt other than commercial paper, if any, that is rated  
28 in a rating category of "A" or its equivalent or higher by an  
29 NRSRO.

30 (2) The entity meets the following criteria:

31 (A) Is organized within the United States as a special purpose  
32 corporation, trust, or limited liability company.

33 (B) Has programwide credit enhancements including, but not  
34 limited to, overcollateralization, letters of credit, or a surety bond.

35 (C) Has commercial paper that is rated "A-1" or higher, or the  
36 equivalent, by an NRSRO.

37 Eligible commercial paper shall have a maximum maturity of  
38 270 days or less. Local agencies, other than counties or a city and  
39 county, may invest no more than 25 percent of their moneys in  
40 eligible commercial paper. Local agencies, other than counties or

1 a city and county, may purchase no more than 10 percent of the  
2 outstanding commercial paper of any single issuer. Counties or a  
3 city and county may invest in commercial paper pursuant to the  
4 concentration limits in subdivision (a) of Section 53635.

5 (i) Negotiable certificates of deposit issued by a nationally or  
6 state-chartered bank, a savings association or a federal association  
7 (as defined by Section 5102 of the Financial Code), a state or  
8 federal credit union, or by a federally licensed or state-licensed  
9 branch of a foreign bank. Purchases of negotiable certificates of  
10 deposit shall not exceed 30 percent of the agency's moneys that  
11 may be invested pursuant to this section. For purposes of this  
12 section, negotiable certificates of deposit do not come within  
13 Article 2 (commencing with Section 53630), except that the amount  
14 so invested shall be subject to the limitations of Section 53638.  
15 The legislative body of a local agency and the treasurer or other  
16 official of the local agency having legal custody of the moneys  
17 are prohibited from investing local agency funds, or funds in the  
18 custody of the local agency, in negotiable certificates of deposit  
19 issued by a state or federal credit union if a member of the  
20 legislative body of the local agency, or a person with investment  
21 decisionmaking authority in the administrative office manager's  
22 office, budget office, auditor-controller's office, or treasurer's  
23 office of the local agency also serves on the board of directors, or  
24 any committee appointed by the board of directors, or the credit  
25 committee or the supervisory committee of the state or federal  
26 credit union issuing the negotiable certificates of deposit.

27 (j) (1) Investments in repurchase agreements or reverse  
28 repurchase agreements or securities lending agreements of  
29 securities authorized by this section, as long as the agreements are  
30 subject to this subdivision, including the delivery requirements  
31 specified in this section.

32 (2) Investments in repurchase agreements may be made, on an  
33 investment authorized in this section, when the term of the  
34 agreement does not exceed one year. The market value of securities  
35 that underlie a repurchase agreement shall be valued at 102 percent  
36 or greater of the funds borrowed against those securities and the  
37 value shall be adjusted no less than quarterly. Since the market  
38 value of the underlying securities is subject to daily market  
39 fluctuations, the investments in repurchase agreements shall be in

1 compliance if the value of the underlying securities is brought back  
2 up to 102 percent no later than the next business day.

3 (3) Reverse repurchase agreements or securities lending  
4 agreements may be utilized only when all of the following  
5 conditions are met:

6 (A) The security to be sold using a reverse repurchase agreement  
7 or securities lending agreement has been owned and fully paid for  
8 by the local agency for a minimum of 30 days prior to sale.

9 (B) The total of all reverse repurchase agreements and securities  
10 lending agreements on investments owned by the local agency  
11 does not exceed 20 percent of the base value of the portfolio.

12 (C) The agreement does not exceed a term of 92 days, unless  
13 the agreement includes a written codicil guaranteeing a minimum  
14 earning or spread for the entire period between the sale of a security  
15 using a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending  
16 agreement and the final maturity date of the same security.

17 (D) Funds obtained or funds within the pool of an equivalent  
18 amount to that obtained from selling a security to a counterparty  
19 using a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending  
20 agreement shall not be used to purchase another security with a  
21 maturity longer than 92 days from the initial settlement date of the  
22 reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement,  
23 unless the reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending  
24 agreement includes a written codicil guaranteeing a minimum  
25 earning or spread for the entire period between the sale of a security  
26 using a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending  
27 agreement and the final maturity date of the same security.

28 (4) (A) Investments in reverse repurchase agreements, securities  
29 lending agreements, or similar investments in which the local  
30 agency sells securities prior to purchase with a simultaneous  
31 agreement to repurchase the security may be made only upon prior  
32 approval of the governing body of the local agency and shall be  
33 made only with primary dealers of the Federal Reserve Bank of  
34 New York or with a nationally or state-chartered bank that has or  
35 has had a significant banking relationship with a local agency.

36 (B) For purposes of this chapter, "significant banking  
37 relationship" means any of the following activities of a bank:

38 (i) Involvement in the creation, sale, purchase, or retirement of  
39 a local agency's bonds, warrants, notes, or other evidence of  
40 indebtedness.

1 (ii) Financing of a local agency's activities.

2 (iii) Acceptance of a local agency's securities or funds as  
3 deposits.

4 (5) (A) "Repurchase agreement" means a purchase of securities  
5 by the local agency pursuant to an agreement by which the  
6 counterparty seller will repurchase the securities on or before a  
7 specified date and for a specified amount and the counterparty will  
8 deliver the underlying securities to the local agency by book entry,  
9 physical delivery, or by third-party custodial agreement. The  
10 transfer of underlying securities to the counterparty bank's  
11 customer book-entry account may be used for book-entry delivery.

12 (B) "Securities," for purposes of repurchase under this  
13 subdivision, means securities of the same issuer, description, issue  
14 date, and maturity.

15 (C) "Reverse repurchase agreement" means a sale of securities  
16 by the local agency pursuant to an agreement by which the local  
17 agency will repurchase the securities on or before a specified date  
18 and includes other comparable agreements.

19 (D) "Securities lending agreement" means an agreement under  
20 which a local agency agrees to transfer securities to a borrower  
21 who, in turn, agrees to provide collateral to the local agency.  
22 During the term of the agreement, both the securities and the  
23 collateral are held by a third party. At the conclusion of the  
24 agreement, the securities are transferred back to the local agency  
25 in return for the collateral.

26 (E) For purposes of this section, the base value of the local  
27 agency's pool portfolio shall be that dollar amount obtained by  
28 totaling all cash balances placed in the pool by all pool participants,  
29 excluding any amounts obtained through selling securities by way  
30 of reverse repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements,  
31 or other similar borrowing methods.

32 (F) For purposes of this section, the spread is the difference  
33 between the cost of funds obtained using the reverse repurchase  
34 agreement and the earnings obtained on the reinvestment of the  
35 funds.

36 (k) Medium-term notes, defined as all corporate and depository  
37 institution debt securities with a maximum remaining maturity of  
38 five years or less, issued by corporations organized and operating  
39 within the United States or by depository institutions licensed by  
40 the United States or any state and operating within the United

1 States. Notes eligible for investment under this subdivision shall  
2 be rated in a rating category of "A" or its equivalent or better by  
3 an NRSRO. Purchases of medium-term notes shall not include  
4 other instruments authorized by this section and shall not exceed  
5 30 percent of the agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant  
6 to this section.

7 (l) (1) Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified  
8 management companies that invest in the securities and obligations  
9 as authorized by subdivisions (a) to (k), inclusive, and subdivisions  
10 (m) to (q), inclusive, and that comply with the investment  
11 restrictions of this article and Article 2 (commencing with Section  
12 53630). However, notwithstanding these restrictions, a counterparty  
13 to a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement  
14 is not required to be a primary dealer of the Federal Reserve Bank  
15 of New York if the company's board of directors finds that the  
16 counterparty presents a minimal risk of default, and the value of  
17 the securities underlying a repurchase agreement or securities  
18 lending agreement may be 100 percent of the sales price if the  
19 securities are marked to market daily.

20 (2) Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified  
21 management companies that are money market funds registered  
22 with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the  
23 Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80a-1 et seq.).

24 (3) If investment is in shares issued pursuant to paragraph (1),  
25 the company shall have met either of the following criteria:

26 (A) Attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and  
27 numerical rating provided by not less than two NRSROs.

28 (B) Retained an investment adviser registered or exempt from  
29 registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission with  
30 not less than five years' experience investing in the securities and  
31 obligations authorized by subdivisions (a) to (k), inclusive, and  
32 subdivisions (m) to (q), inclusive, and with assets under  
33 management in excess of five hundred million dollars  
34 (\$500,000,000).

35 (4) If investment is in shares issued pursuant to paragraph (2),  
36 the company shall have met either of the following criteria:

37 (A) Attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and  
38 numerical rating provided by not less than two NRSROs.

39 (B) Retained an investment adviser registered or exempt from  
40 registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission with

1 not less than five years' experience managing money market  
2 mutual funds with assets under management in excess of five  
3 hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

4 (5) The purchase price of shares of beneficial interest purchased  
5 pursuant to this subdivision shall not include commission that the  
6 companies may charge and shall not exceed 20 percent of the  
7 agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section.  
8 However, no more than 10 percent of the agency's funds may be  
9 invested in shares of beneficial interest of any one mutual fund  
10 pursuant to paragraph (1).

11 (m) Moneys held by a trustee or fiscal agent and pledged to the  
12 payment or security of bonds or other indebtedness, or obligations  
13 under a lease, installment sale, or other agreement of a local  
14 agency, or certificates of participation in those bonds, indebtedness,  
15 or lease installment sale, or other agreements, may be invested in  
16 accordance with the statutory provisions governing the issuance  
17 of those bonds, indebtedness, or lease installment sale, or other  
18 agreement, or to the extent not inconsistent therewith or if there  
19 are no specific statutory provisions, in accordance with the  
20 ordinance, resolution, indenture, or agreement of the local agency  
21 providing for the issuance.

22 (n) Notes, bonds, or other obligations that are at all times secured  
23 by a valid first priority security interest in securities of the types  
24 listed by Section 53651 as eligible securities for the purpose of  
25 securing local agency deposits having a market value at least equal  
26 to that required by Section 53652 for the purpose of securing local  
27 agency deposits. The securities serving as collateral shall be placed  
28 by delivery or book entry into the custody of a trust company or  
29 the trust department of a bank that is not affiliated with the issuer  
30 of the secured obligation, and the security interest shall be perfected  
31 in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Commercial  
32 Code or federal regulations applicable to the types of securities in  
33 which the security interest is granted.

34 (o) A mortgage passthrough security, collateralized mortgage  
35 obligation, mortgage-backed or other pay-through bond, equipment  
36 lease-backed certificate, consumer receivable passthrough  
37 certificate, or consumer receivable-backed bond. Securities eligible  
38 for investment under this subdivision shall be rated in a rating  
39 category of "AA" or its equivalent or better by an NRSRO and  
40 have a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less. Purchase

1 of securities authorized by this subdivision shall not exceed 20  
2 percent of the agency's surplus moneys that may be invested  
3 pursuant to this section.

4 (p) Shares of beneficial interest issued by a joint powers  
5 authority organized pursuant to Section 6509.7 that invests in the  
6 securities and obligations authorized in subdivisions (a) to (q),  
7 inclusive. Each share shall represent an equal proportional interest  
8 in the underlying pool of securities owned by the joint powers  
9 authority. To be eligible under this section, the joint powers  
10 authority issuing the shares shall have retained an investment  
11 adviser that meets all of the following criteria:

12 (1) The adviser is registered or exempt from registration with  
13 the Securities and Exchange Commission.

14 (2) The adviser has not less than five years of experience  
15 investing in the securities and obligations authorized in  
16 subdivisions (a) to (q), inclusive.

17 (3) The adviser has assets under management in excess of five  
18 hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

19 (q) United States dollar denominated senior unsecured  
20 unsubordinated obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed  
21 by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development,  
22 International Finance Corporation, or Inter-American Development  
23 Bank, with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less,  
24 and eligible for purchase and sale within the United States.  
25 Investments under this subdivision shall be rated in a rating  
26 category of "AA" or its equivalent or better by an NRSRO and  
27 shall not exceed 30 percent of the agency's moneys that may be  
28 invested pursuant to this section.

29 (r) Commercial paper, debt securities, or other obligations of a  
30 public bank, as defined in Section 57600.

31 SEC. 5. Section 53635 of the Government Code is amended  
32 to read:

33 53635. (a) This section shall apply to a local agency that is a  
34 county, a city and county, or other local agency that pools money  
35 in deposits or investments with other local agencies, including  
36 local agencies that have the same governing body. However,  
37 Section 53601 shall apply to all local agencies that pool money in  
38 deposits or investments exclusively with local agencies that have  
39 the same governing body.



1 This section shall be interpreted in a manner that recognizes the  
2 distinct characteristics of investment pools and the distinct  
3 administrative burdens on managing and investing funds on a  
4 pooled basis pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section  
5 27130) of Chapter 5 of Division 2 of Title 3.

6 A local agency that is a county, a city and county, or other local  
7 agency that pools money in deposits or investments with other  
8 agencies may invest in commercial paper pursuant to subdivision  
9 (h) of Section 53601, except that the local agency shall be subject  
10 to the following concentration limits:

11 (1) No more than 40 percent of the local agency's money may  
12 be invested in eligible commercial paper.

13 (2) No more than 10 percent of the total assets of the investments  
14 held by a local agency may be invested in any one issuer's  
15 commercial paper.

16 (b) Notwithstanding Section 53601, the City of Los Angeles  
17 shall be subject to the concentration limits of this section for  
18 counties and for cities and counties with regard to the investment  
19 of money in eligible commercial paper.

20 (c) A local agency subject to this section may invest in  
21 commercial paper, debt securities, or other obligations of a public  
22 bank, as defined in Section 57600.

23 SEC. 6. Section 53635.2 of the Government Code is amended  
24 to read:

25 53635.2. As far as possible, all money belonging to, or in the  
26 custody of, a local agency, including money paid to the treasurer  
27 or other official to pay the principal, interest, or penalties of bonds,  
28 shall be deposited for safekeeping in state or national banks, public  
29 banks, savings associations, federal associations, credit unions, or  
30 federally insured industrial loan companies in this state selected  
31 by the treasurer or other official having legal custody of the money;  
32 or may be invested in the investments set forth in Section 53601.  
33 To be eligible to receive local agency money, a bank, savings  
34 association, federal association, or federally insured industrial loan  
35 company shall have received an overall rating of not less than  
36 "satisfactory" in its most recent evaluation by the appropriate  
37 federal financial supervisory agency of its record of meeting the  
38 credit needs of California's communities, including low- and  
39 moderate-income neighborhoods, pursuant to Section 2906 of Title

1 12 of the United States Code. Sections 53601.5 and 53601.6 shall  
2 apply to all investments that are acquired pursuant to this section.

3 SEC. 7. Division 5 (commencing with Section 57600) is added  
4 to Title 5 of the Government Code, to read:

5

6

DIVISION 5. PUBLIC BANKS

7

8 57600. For purposes of this division:

9 (a) "Local financial institution" means a certified community  
10 development financial institution, a credit union, or a small bank  
11 or an intermediate small bank, as defined in Section 25.12 of Title  
12 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

13 (b) "Public bank" means a corporation, organized for the purpose  
14 of engaging in the commercial banking business or industrial  
15 banking business, that is wholly owned by a local agency, local  
16 agencies, a joint powers authority formed pursuant to the Joint  
17 Exercise of Powers Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500)  
18 of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1) that is composed only of  
19 local agencies, or a special district.

20 ~~(c) "Self-insurance" means deposits guaranteed by the owners  
21 of the public bank in an amount approved by the Commissioner  
22 of Business Oversight.~~

23 57601. (a) A public bank shall identify in its articles of  
24 incorporation either a social purpose, as provided in paragraph (2)  
25 of subdivision (6) of Section 2602 of the Corporations Code, or a  
26 specific public benefit, as provided in Section 14610 of the  
27 Corporations Code. Examples of a social purpose or a specific  
28 public benefit include, but are not limited to, strengthening local  
29 economies, supporting community economic development,  
30 addressing infrastructure and housing needs for localities, and  
31 providing banking services to the unbanked or underbanked.

32 (b) A public bank may, but is not required to, incorporate as a  
33 benefit corporation or a social purpose corporation.

34 (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a public bank that identifies  
35 a social purpose in its articles of incorporation shall comply with  
36 Section 3500 of the Corporations Code, and a public bank that  
37 identifies a specific public benefit in its articles of incorporation  
38 shall comply with Section 14630 of the Corporations Code.

39 57602. (a) A public bank shall obtain and maintain deposit  
40 ~~insurance approved by the Commissioner of Business Oversight,~~

1 either *provided* by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
2 under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (~~12 U.S.C. Sec. 1811 et~~  
3 ~~seq.~~), ~~private share insurance, or self-insurance.~~ (*12 U.S.C. Sec.*  
4 *1811 et seq.*)

5 (b) In seeking and retaining insurance, a public bank may do  
6 all things and assume and discharge all obligations required of it  
7 that are not in conflict with state law.

8 57603. (a) A public bank shall comply with all requirements  
9 of the Financial Institutions Law (Division 1 (commencing with  
10 Section 99) of the Financial Code) and the Banking Law (Division  
11 1.1 (commencing with Section ~~1000~~) *1000*) of the ~~Financial Code,~~  
12 *Code*), except to the extent that a requirement of those laws is  
13 inconsistent with a provision of this division, in which case the  
14 provisions of this division shall prevail.

15 (b) A public bank shall comply with the requirements of Section  
16 53638 unless the public bank and the depositor agree otherwise.

17 (c) Notwithstanding Section 23010, a county may lend its credit  
18 to any public bank.

19 (d) Notwithstanding Section 53601, any local agency that does  
20 not pool money in deposits or investments with other local agencies  
21 that have separate governing bodies may invest in debt securities  
22 or other obligations of a public bank.

23 (e) Notwithstanding Section 53635, any local agency that pools  
24 money in deposits or investments with other local agencies,  
25 including local agencies that have the same governing body, may  
26 invest in debt securities or other obligations of a public bank.

27 (f) Notwithstanding Section 53635.2, a public bank shall be  
28 eligible to receive local agency money.

29 57604. (a) Wherever possible, any retail services of a public  
30 bank shall be conducted in partnership with local financial  
31 institutions.

32 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a public bank may do both  
33 of the following:

34 (1) Engage in banking activities, ~~including~~ *including*, but not  
35 limited to, infrastructure lending, wholesale lending, and  
36 participation lending.

37 (2) Engage in retail activities that are not provided by local  
38 financial institutions in the jurisdiction of the local agency or  
39 agencies that own the public bank.

1 57605. For the purposes of Section 1280 of the Financial Code,  
2 any person or entity, including a local agency, that owns, controls,  
3 or holds an ownership interest in a public bank is not a bank  
4 holding company by reason of that ownership interest.

5 57606. (a) *Before submitting an application to organize and*  
6 *establish a public bank pursuant to Section 1020 of the Financial*  
7 *Code, a local agency shall conduct a study to assess the viability*  
8 *of the proposed public bank. The study shall include, but is not*  
9 *limited to, all of the following elements:*

10 (1) *A discussion of the purposes of the bank including, but not*  
11 *limited to, achieving cost savings, strengthening local economies,*  
12 *supporting community economic development, and addressing*  
13 *infrastructure and housing needs for localities.*

14 (2) *A fiscal analysis of costs associated with starting the*  
15 *proposed public bank.*

16 (3) *An estimate of the initial amount of capital to be provided*  
17 *by the local agency to the proposed public bank.*

18 (4) *Financial projections, including a pro forma balance sheet*  
19 *and income statement, of the proposed public bank for at least the*  
20 *first five years of operation. The financial projections shall include*  
21 *an estimate of the time period for when expected revenues meet*  
22 *or exceed expected costs and an estimate of the total operating*  
23 *subsidy that the local agency may be required to provide until the*  
24 *proposed public bank generates sufficient revenue to cover its*  
25 *costs. In addition to projections that assume favorable economic*  
26 *conditions, the analysis shall also include a downside scenario*  
27 *that considers the effect of an economic recession on the financial*  
28 *results of the proposed public bank. The projections may include*  
29 *the downside scenario of continuing to do business with the local*  
30 *government's current banker or bankers.*

31 (5) *A legal analysis of whether the proposed structure and*  
32 *operations of the public bank would likely comply with Section 6*  
33 *of Article XVI of the California Constitution, but nothing herein*  
34 *shall compel the waiver of any attorney-client privilege attaching*  
35 *to that legal analysis.*

36 (6) *An analysis of how the proposed governance structure of*  
37 *the public bank would protect the bank from unlawful insider*  
38 *transactions and apparent conflicts of interest.*

39 (b) *The study may include any of the following elements:*

1 (1) *A fiscal analysis of benefits associated with starting the*  
2 *proposed public bank, including but not limited to, cost savings,*  
3 *jobs created, jobs retained, economic activity generated, and*  
4 *private capital leveraged.*

5 (2) *A qualitative assessment of social or environmental benefits*  
6 *of the proposed public bank.*

7 (3) *An estimate of the fees paid to the local agency's current*  
8 *banker or bankers.*

9 (4) *A fiscal analysis of the costs, including social and*  
10 *environmental, of continuing to do business with the local agency's*  
11 *current banker or bankers.*

12 (c) *The study required by subdivision (a) shall be presented and*  
13 *approved by the governing body of the local agency at a public*  
14 *meeting prior to the local agency submitting an application*  
15 *pursuant to Section 1020 of the Financial Code.*

16 (d) *The local agency shall make available to the public the*  
17 *financial models and key assumptions used to estimate the elements*  
18 *described in paragraphs (2) through (4) of subdivision (a) before*  
19 *presenting the study to the governing body of the local agency as*  
20 *required by subdivision (c).*

21 SEC. 8. Section 23701aa is added to the Revenue and Taxation  
22 Code, to read:

23 23701aa. A public bank as defined in Section 57600 of the  
24 Government Code. In addition, a public bank is exempt from all  
25 other taxes and licenses, state, county, and municipal, imposed  
26 upon a public bank, except taxes upon its real property, local utility  
27 user taxes, sales and use taxes, state energy resources surcharges,  
28 state emergency telephone users surcharges, motor vehicle and  
29 other vehicle registration license fees, and any other tax or license  
30 fee imposed by the state upon vehicles, motor vehicles, or the  
31 operation thereof.

Date of Hearing: May 8, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
AB 857 (Chiu) – As Amended April 29, 2019

Policy Committee:	Banking and Finance	Vote:	7 - 3
	Local Government		5 - 2

Urgency: No      State Mandated Local Program: No      Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes local agencies to create and operate publicly owned banks. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Defines a public bank as a corporation, organized for the purposes of engaging in the commercial banking business or industrial banking business that is wholly owned by a local agency, local agencies, a joint powers authority that is composed only of local agencies, or a special district.
- 2) Places a range of restrictions on a public bank, including that it must: (a) identify in its articles of incorporation either a social purpose or a specific public benefit; (b) obtain and maintain deposit insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); (c) Conduct retail services in partnership with financial institution, when possible; and (d) comply with all the requirements of the Financial Institutions Law and the Banking Law.
- 3) Requires a local agency to conduct a viability study of a proposed public bank prior to submitting an application to the Department of Business Oversight (DBO).
- 4) Exempts a public bank from state and local taxes, with specified exceptions.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Significant costs to DBO to process and review applications for a public bank. These costs are subject to significant uncertainty and depend on the number of public bank applications. If 50 applications were submitted to DBO in initial years, personnel and legal costs could exceed \$800,000 (for three attorneys and three support staff).

The above scenario is likely conservative. Given that AB 857 authorizes thousands of public agencies to form a public bank, there could be hundreds of applications in initial years. Such a surge in applications would require DBO to add a large number of new legal staff, resulting in millions of dollars in personnel costs for DBO.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Background and purpose.** Public banks are financial institutions owned by a governmental identity, such as a state or municipality. The idea behind a public bank is to remove banking from profit motives and instead focus on community goals. A number of local governments,

including Oakland and Los Angeles, have started studying the potential benefits of a public bank.

This bill authorizes a local government to establish a public bank. The author argues this will “provide more local control, transparency, and self-determination in how local taxpayer dollars are leveraged in the banking system.” The California Public Banking Alliance, writing in support, argues public banks “can leverage their deposit base and lending power to benefit the public.”

- 2) **Recent amendments and staff comment.** Recent policy committee amendments add new requirements for local agencies seeking to start a local bank. First, the bill no longer allows for self-insurance and instead requires public banks to receive FDIC insurance. Second, a local agency must now conduct a robust viability study.

The required study is an important and welcome amendment. However, as drafted, AB 857 does not require the study be part of the application process to DBO. The committee may wish to consider a more explicit linkage.

- 3) **All eyes on DBO.** There remain some important questions about the long-term viability of a local public bank. How will the governance structure of a public bank work, and how will it protect itself from undue political influence? How will a public bank achieve its public benefit goals while remaining financially viable? While a local agency will attempt to answer these questions through the required viability study, DBO will ultimately be the entity that decides whether these questions have been sufficiently answered.

DBO reviews applications for new banks to determine if the new bank will meet basic requirements that allow it to service its community. These examinations tend to look at a bank’s capital, asset quality, management expertise, earnings potential and sensitivity to market risk. This process is intensive and thorough.

There is no guarantee DBO would grant a state charter to a public bank. Given the uncertainty around the public bank model, it may be years until DBO approves such an institution. And, it is unlikely a public bank that ultimately receives a charter will resemble the kind of entity envisioned by supporters.

- 4) **Local fiscal concerns.** Local costs are beyond the purview of this committee if they do not result in a state reimbursable mandate. However, it is notable that the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors (CACTTC) opposes this bill because of its implications for local finances. CACTTC notes in its opposition letter it is unlikely a county treasurer would ever utilize a public bank because of the potential risk doing so could endanger a county treasury’s ability to pay near-term obligations.

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