

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM

Christopher M. Ward, Chair

AB 1237 (McKinnor) – As Amended April 1, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Counties of Los Angeles and Santa Clara: sporting events: ticket charge: public transit

**SUMMARY:** This bill would authorize the Los Angeles County Transportation Authority (LA Metro) and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to impose a charge of up to \$5 on the purchaser of a ticket from a ticket vendor to a sporting event in the counties of Los Angeles or Santa Clara for the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup and the 2026 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men’s or Women’s Basketball Championship.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Restricts the fee to apply only to the original purchase of the ticket and not resale tickets.
- 2) Places responsibility on a ticket vendor to collect the charge from the purchaser and remit the revenues from that charge to LA Metro or VTA.
- 3) Requires revenues collected be used to support transit operations.
- 4) Requires LA Metro to allow any person to use its transit services at no charge on the day of a sporting event in the County of Los Angeles for the 2026 FIFA World Cup if the person presents a ticket to that sporting event at the location where the authority collects fares for transit services.
- 5) Requires VTA to allow any person to use its transit services at no charge on the day of a sporting event in the County of Santa Clara for the 2026 FIFA World Cup or the NCAA Basketball championship games if the person presents a ticket to that sporting event at the location where the authority collects fares for transit services.
- 6) Requires LA Metro and VTA to each submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2027 that includes the amount of the charge authorized and the amount of revenue collected as a result of the charge, the number of free trips taken as a result of the fee, and the amount of money spent and a detailed account of additional transit services provided to serve the sporting events.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Requires advertisements, displays, and prices for goods and services to include all mandatory fees and charges other than taxes or fees imposed by a government on the transaction, or postage of carriage charges to ship physical goods to a consumer. (Civil Code Section 1770 (a)(29))
- 2) Establishes VTA within Santa Clara County to operate and construct transit projects. (Public Utilities Code section (PUC) 100000).

- 3) Prohibits VTA from levying any tax unless approved by the electors voting on the measure (PUC 100113).
- 4) Establishes LA Metro to operate and construct transit projects within Los Angeles County (PUC 130050.2)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None. This bill is keyed non-fiscal.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) Author's statement. According to the author, "California is not new to playing host to some of the largest sports or entertainment events in the world. As we look to the future, we must start thinking and taking action on how to better integrate transit use beyond its traditional uses - like how we get to and from work or school and begin to fully integrate transit use into all aspects of our lives - including participating in sporting and entertainment events.

"As California prepares to welcome the world next year, AB 1237 is an important component to ensure that sports fans across California and around the globe are able to safely access these once in a generation games and celebrate the culture of sport."

- 2) Background. California will host a number of larger scale events over the next three years. In 2026, SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles and Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara County will hold matches for the FIFA World Cup. The SAP Center in San Jose will host the West Regional Sweet 16 and Elite Eight games for the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. In 2026, Levi Stadium will host the Super Bowl, with SoFi Stadium hosting the following year in 2027. Los Angeles will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028.

Levi's Stadium has direct access to both rail and bus services. Light rail is the most direct route for the greater South Bay area. VTA light rail trains will drop off and pick up passengers at the Great America Station located on the North side of the stadium. VTA buses will drop off guests in two locations: the Intersection of Tasman Drive and Great America Parkway and the Intersection of Tasman Drive and Calle Del Sol. The SAP Center is served by VTA light rail, Caltrain, and bus service. SoFi Stadium has no direct rail service to its stadium. Instead, transit riders can take a free shuttle from the Metro K Line to SoFi stadium.

Major events at these stadiums have caused massive traffic delays. According to mobility company Streetlight, Taylor Swift's Eras Tour caused significant traffic delays both at Levi Stadium and at SoFi Stadium. Average vehicle hours of delay increased by 473% at Levi's Stadium for the tour despite its massive public transit offerings. SoFi Stadium, having learned the lessons of the Levi Stadium traffic, saw a more modest 181% delay (the national average for the Eras Tour was 277%).

- 3) FIFA World Cup 2026: The FIFA World Cup 2026 will be one of the largest sporting events in history, and will be hosted jointly by the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Hosting the tournament, which runs from June 11 to July 16, 2026, includes 104 matches in 16 unique cities, including eight matches at the SoFi Stadium and six matches at the Levi's Stadium. Due to the size of the event, the World Cup has the potential to impact traffic in a manner even more significant than Taylor Swift's Eras Tour.

- 4) Arguments in support. According to the VTA in support, “The upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup and March Madness games present a unique opportunity to showcase the vibrancy and diverse culture of California to the world. When the games begin, increased domestic and global visitors will further congest LA County’s and Santa Clara County’s already stressed road based transportation infrastructure, complicating game related logistics and impacting public safety response times.

“AB 1237 will provide sports fans participating in the World Cup and March Madness with an easy way to utilize transit when attending these sporting events, reduce traffic congestion, improve local air quality and provide critical support for local transit services as Los Angeles and Santa Clara prepares to host the world in the coming years.”

- 5) Arguments in opposition. According to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association in opposition, “It is doubtful LA Metro could prove that every person paying the \$5 charge is going to ride LA Metro public transportation on the day of their ticket. In other words, LA Metro cannot prove that the benefit, privilege or service of a free ride will be provided ‘directly’ to every payor... Payors who take an Uber, take a taxi, drive their own car, get dropped off by a friend, live within walking distance of the venue, stay at a hotel within walking distance of the venue, stay at a hotel that offers a shuttle, or come in from a nearby community on transit not operated by LA Metro, will be paying the \$5 charge but not receiving a free ride.”
- 6) Double-referral. This measure was referred to both the Assembly Committee on Transportation and to the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism. This measure passed the Assembly Committee on Transportation on a 12 to 3 vote, with one member not voting.
- 7) Amendments and policy considerations. Due to the timing of ticket sales for the events impacted by this bill, the author is asking the committee to amend the bill to add an urgency clause so that it will go into effect before January 1, 2026. Should this bill have a positive effect on the usage of public transit during the covered events in 2026, future legislation could use this framework to apply to internationally significant events occurring in California in 2027 and 2028.
- 8) Prior and related legislation:
- a) SB 478 (Dodd), Chapter 400, Statutes of 2023, prohibits a practice known as drip pricing, which involves advertising a price that is less than the actual price that a consumer will have to pay for a good or service.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO  
California Safety and Legislative Board of SMART - Transportation Division  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Move LA  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
Streets for All

One Individual

**Opposition**

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA)

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