



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 819 (BRYAN)
SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 819 (Bryan).

AB 819 would reduce the penalty for a third or subsequent conviction for fair evasion from a misdemeanor to an infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$400.

Under current law, a first or second fare evasion violation is an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$250 and up to 48 hours of community service. A third or subsequent fare evasion violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$400 or by up to 90 days in county jail, or both. Under this bill, a third or subsequent fare evasion violation would no longer be a misdemeanor with potential imprisonment in county jail. Instead, a third or subsequent violation would be an infraction, punishable only by a \$400 fine.

AB 819 is consistent with recent efforts to decriminalize many low level misdemeanor offenses. People who face criminal charges for not paying their transit fare are disproportionately people of color. Under existing law, an individual could be sentenced to 90 days in county jail on a misdemeanor conviction. The cost of housing an inmate in the LA County Jail is \$245 per day. If an individual was held for the full 90 days (highly improbable) it would result in a cost equal to paying for 37 years of LA Metro Monthly passes. This does not make sense.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney