

**Introduced by Senator Padilla**  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Garcia)

January 24, 2024

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An act to add Article 8.1 (commencing with Section 92688) to Chapter 6 of Part 57 of Division 9 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to air pollution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 967, as introduced, Padilla. University of California: pilot project: dust forecast and warning system: Imperial County and Coachella Valley.

Existing law generally designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency with the primary responsibility for the control of vehicular air pollution, and air pollution control districts and air quality management districts with the primary responsibility for the control of air pollution from all sources other than vehicular sources.

The California Constitution provides that the University of California constitutes a public trust, and requires the university to be 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.

This bill would request the Regents of the University of California to conduct a pilot project in the County of Imperial and the Coachella Valley to develop a 3-day wintertime regional dust forecast capability and a dust storm early warning system for the monsoon season, as specified.

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. Article 8.1 (commencing with Section 92688) is  
2 added to Chapter 6 of Part 57 of Division 9 of Title 3 of the  
3 Education Code, to read:

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5 Article 8.1. County of Imperial and Coachella Valley Dust  
6 Forecast and Warning System Pilot Project  
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8 92688. (a) The Regents of the University of California are  
9 hereby requested to conduct a pilot project in the County of  
10 Imperial and the Coachella Valley to develop a three-day  
11 wintertime regional dust forecast capability and a dust storm early  
12 warning system for the monsoon season.

13 (b) The goals of the pilot project shall be to demonstrate the  
14 capacity to improve on existing dust forecasts and air quality  
15 information, and to quantify the value of these products within the  
16 County of Imperial and the Coachella Valley.

17 (c) In conducting the pilot project, the Regents of the University  
18 of California are hereby requested to do both of the following:

19 (1) Work with local groups to identify effective communication  
20 strategies and to focus initial effort on providing actionable  
21 information to historically underserved groups in the County of  
22 Imperial and in the Coachella Valley.

23 (2) Identify opportunities for citizen science and education  
24 applications of the pilot project.

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