Summary: This bill seeks authorization from the Legislature to create a voting district in the South Coast region to allow local funding measures to be placed on the ballot.

Need for Bill:
- The 17 million residents in the South Coast Air Basin breathe some of the most polluted air in the nation, with the highest levels of ozone and second-highest levels of particulate matter (PM). In 2017 the region exceeded the federal ozone standard on 145 days.
- Children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions are particularly vulnerable.
- Over 80% of regional nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions are from mobile pollution sources, with most from trucks and heavy-duty equipment.
- Funding for cleaner vehicles and equipment is urgently needed to improve public health and meet upcoming federal clean air deadlines which require a 45% reduction of NOx emissions by 2023 and 55% by 2031. Significant additional emission reductions will be required by 2038 to meet the more stringent federal ozone standard established in 2015.
- Climate change is causing more and more harmful consequences, including wildfires, increased air pollution, rising oceans and extreme weather conditions.
- Community groups came to South Coast AQMD seeking local solutions to address air pollution and climate change.

Solution: This bill would authorize the creation of a voting district to allow local funding measures to be placed on the ballot in the South Coast region, similar to cities, counties, and transportation agencies, that could be used to address climate change and the region’s poor air quality.

Benefits: Funding could fully implement the Air Quality Management Plan and:
- Eliminate unhealthy air pollution in the South Coast region;
- Meet statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals in our region;
- Greatly reduce serious health impacts, such as asthma, bronchitis, decreased lung growth in children, various cancer and cardiovascular risks, premature death, emergency room and hospital visits, and hundreds of thousands of health-related lost work days and missed school days – overall resulting in estimated monetized health benefits totaling over ten billion dollars every year;
- Benefit disadvantaged communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution;
- Avoid federal sanctions that: 1) cut off billions of dollars in federal highway funds; 2) create stricter requirements for businesses; and 3) result in a federal takeover of local air quality efforts likely resulting in draconian measures hurtful to the local economy; and
- Transform the goods movement industry and other industrial sectors to zero or near-zero emission technology, benefitting air quality, climate, local toxic exposure and the economy.