



ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIRK-SILVA, 65<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**AB 420 (QUIRK-SILVA):**

**SUMMARY**

Would treat large and small theme parks equally under the industry guidance tier structure, by stating it is the intention of the Legislature that all theme parks regardless of size may open within Orange – Moderate Tier 3” instead of “Yellow – Minimal Tier 4.

**BACKGROUND**

On March 4, 2020, the Governor declared a state of emergency in response to the threat of Covid 19. Under the Executive’s emergency powers authority, the following tiers for permissible activities were established for California’s 58 counties, based on test positivity and adjusted case rate, as follows:

- Widespread, aka Purple Tier, Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed.
- Substantial, aka Red Tier, Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed.
- Moderate, aka Orange Tier, Some indoor business operations are open with modifications.
- Minimal, aka Yellow Tier, Most indoor business operations are open with modifications.

In December of 2020 the Industry Guidance for Theme Parks was amended, allowing operation of smaller theme parks in the Moderate (orange) tier but confining larger parks to the Minimal (yellow) tier.

On October 14, 2020, the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism & Internet Media Committee held an Informational Hearing titled “The Economic Power and Resilience of California’s Tourism Industry” wherein the Committee sought to

gain insight into the important challenges facing California’s tourism industry during this unprecedented time.

According to information provided to the Committee by Visit CA, due to business shutdowns under Covid 19 Pandemic Emergency Orders, “The number of jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector is expected to drop by 53 percent in the first two quarters of 2020 or by around 1.1 million jobs. While job losses have occurred in nearly every sector of the economy, they have been most acute in sectors not fully able to telework such as hospitality and leisure. Lower-wage workers have disproportionately borne the impact of job losses.”

In the Hearing, testimony revealed how responsible tourism can be used as a pathway to recovery. Testimony from Universal Parks & Resorts referred to the successful Universal and Disney theme park operations in Florida, stressing that, “We support the governor’s science-based approach of reopening but also urge him to consider that there has been no evidence of theme parks being sources of transmission of Covid 19.”

**THIS BILL**

States the intent of the Legislature that the executive branch adjust the “COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Amusement Parks and Theme Parks” issued on October 20, 2020, and place all amusement parks, regardless of size, within “Orange – Moderate – Tier 3” instead of in “Yellow-Minimal-Tier 4

**SUPPORT**

California Association of Theme Parks (CAPA)