

---

# SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair  
2021 - 2022 Regular

---

**Bill No:** AB 137 **Hearing Date:** June 30, 2021  
**Author:** Committee on Budget  
**Version:** June 27, 2021 As amended  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Yong Salas

**Subject:** State government

**Summary:** This bill contains statutory provisions related to general government necessary to implement the Budget Act of 2021.

**Proposed Law:** This bill makes the following statutory changes:

- 1) **Information Security Oversight.** Allows the Department of Technology to receive General Funds for information security audits.
- 2) **Progressive Design Build.** Authorizes the Department of General Services to use the progressive design build procurement process for up to three public works projects.
- 3) **Assessment Appeals Board.** Extends the sunset for which a county assessment appeals board can render final decisions on assessment appeals to December 31, 2021.
- 4) **Forced or Involuntary Sterilizations Restitution Program.** Establishes the Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program, to be administered by the California Victim Compensation Board for the purpose of providing victim compensation to survivors of state-sponsored sterilization.
- 5) **Cardroom fee waivers.** Suspends certain cardroom fees for one year, backfilled by the special fund reserve.
- 6) **School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program.** This bill makes certain changes to the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program to include regional occupation centers. It also continuously appropriates funds deposited in the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Fund to support the Program, and requires the California Energy Commission to submit an annual report to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee describing program activities and spending.
- 7) **Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) Date Adjustment.** Adjusts the implementation date to meet the mandates of AB 528 (Low), Chapter 677, Statutes of 2019 a date on or before October 1, 2022. The delayed implementation date ensures the completion of various

technological changes to the CURES database to comply with the bill's mandates.

- 8) **Certified Veteran Service Provider Program Fund.** Allows the grant program established by AB 1618 (2017) to be funded by an appropriation of the Legislature, and creates the Certified Veteran Service Provider Program Fund.
- 9) **Department of Technology Assessment Report.** Requires the Department of Technology to assess high-risk, critical projects in state government, assess the information technology related contracts, and implement a plan to establish centralized contracts for shared services.
- 10) **Solar Restitution Program.** Provides for the implementation of a Solar Restitution Program, to be administered by the Contractor State License Board and using one-time resources appropriated by the Legislature. The program would provide restitution to homeowners who were defrauded by licensed or unlicensed solar installers after January 1, 2016. It would cap awards to individuals at \$40,000, and would require the board to deduct the amount the consumer recovered from other sources from the amount payable upon the consumer's claim. This bill would sunset this program on June 30, 2024.
- 11) **State Appropriations Limit.** Updates the definition of local subventions to account for realignment, which creates room for the state under the State Appropriations Limit.
- 12) **Buy Clean California Act Delayed Implementation.** Extends all implementation dates for the Buy Clean California Act.
- 13) **Hate Crime Victim Services and Prevention Grant Program.** Requires the State Department of Social Services, in consultation with the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, to administer a grant program that provides support and services to victims and survivors of hate crimes and their families and facilitates hate crime prevention measures.
- 14) **Financial Empowerment Fund.** Makes the following changes to the Financial Empowerment Fund and grant program established by SB 455 (Bradford, Ch. 478, Stats. 2019):
  - Increases the maximum grant size from \$100,000 to \$200,000
  - Increases the maximum amount of grant awards that may be made in a fiscal year from \$1 million to \$2 million per year
  - Extends the program sunset from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030

This program, also known as CalMoneySmart, is administered by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) and provides grants to nonprofits that help underbanked Californians identify and access low-cost, responsible financial products, establish or improve credit, increase savings, or reduce debt.

- 15) **Debt Collectors Licensing Fee.** Pursuant to SB 908 (Wieckowski) Chapter 163, Statutes of 2020, sets the fee to become a licensed debt collector at \$350 and requires DFPI to collect the fee at the time of the initial application.
- 16) **Energy Unit.** Establishes a new Energy Unit at the Governor's Office of Business and Development (GO-Biz) under the authority of a deputy director appointed by the Governor, to accelerate the planning, financing, and execution of critical energy infrastructure projects.
- 17) **BUILD Program.** Provides for the implementation and administer of a new statewide program to incentivize the construction of new multifamily and single-family market-rate residential buildings as all-electric buildings or with energy storage systems.
- 18) **Real Estate Fraud Fee.** Includes clarifying language around recording fees that counties may charge to the state or other political subdivisions, such as counties and municipalities, which are typically exempt from such fees. Specifies that the lien release fee is twice the fee charged to record the first page of a lien. Clarifies that other recording fees, including the Real Estate Fraud Fee, cannot be charged to otherwise exempt government entities.

**Fiscal Effect:** Creates a continuously appropriated School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Fund.

**Support:** None on file.

**Opposed:** None on file.

-- END --