
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1130 (Berman) - Political Reform Act of 1974: campaign disclosures

Version: June 11, 2026

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 9 - 0, E. & C.A.
5 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: Yes

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: AB 1130 would impose administrative, civil, and criminal penalties for failure to include disclosure disclaimers when a campaign committee pays a person to post political content online in support of or opposition to candidates and measures.

Fiscal Impact: The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) indicates that it would incur first-year costs of \$258,000, and \$251,000 annually thereafter, to support one position in its Enforcement Division (General Fund).

Background: The Political Reform Act (PRA) establishes California's campaign finance, disclosure, and ethics framework for state and local candidates, elected officials, campaign committees, and ballot measure campaigns, and authorizes FPPC to administer and enforce its provisions. The PRA requires periodic campaign finance reports disclosing contributions received and expenditures made, including the identity of recipients receiving expenditures of \$100 or more, the amount of each expenditure, and its purpose. Violations of the PRA are subject to administrative, civil, and criminal penalties, with knowing or willful violations constituting misdemeanors. Existing law also requires individuals who are compensated by a campaign committee to post content supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot measure on specified digital platforms to disclose that they were paid for the communication. Unlike most PRA violations, however, failure to include this disclaimer is not subject to the Act's standard enforcement penalties; instead, FPPC may seek injunctive relief to compel compliance.

Proposed Law: This bill would do the following:

- Make violations of the digital disclaimer requirement subject to the same administrative, civil, and criminal enforcement provisions that apply to other violations of the PRA, thereby expanding FPPC's enforcement authority and available penalties for noncompliance.
- Require the campaign committee paying for the post to tell the person posting that failing to include the disclaimer may result in penalties under the PRA.
- Make the person who posts and the campaign committee that paid them jointly and severally liable for any civil or administrative penalties that result from not making the required disclaimer.

- Require disclosure of the payment made for the post on the campaign committee's regular campaign reports to include a statement that the payment paid a third-party to make an online post.

Related Legislation: SB 678 (Umberg, Chapter 156, Statutes of 2023) requires disclosure disclaimers when a person is paid by a committee to post online political content in support of or opposition to candidates and measures.

Staff Comments: Any local government costs resulting from the mandate in this measure are not state-reimbursable because the mandate only involves the definition of a crime or the penalty for conviction of a crime.

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