CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AB 1130 (Berman and Blanca Rubio)
As Amended August 13, 2026
2/3 vote

SUMMARY

Allows administrative, civil, or criminal penalties to be imposed against a person who is paid by a campaign committee to post online political content in support of or in opposition to a candidate or measure if the person fails to include the required disclaimer that the person is being paid.

Senate Amendments
Delete the Assembly-approved version of the bill, and instead:

1) Repeal an existing provision of law that exempts a person who is paid by a campaign committee to post content supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot measure from administrative, civil, and criminal penalties under the Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA) for failing to comply with the existing requirement to include a disclaimer stating that the person was paid by the committee in connection with the posting.

2) Make the person who posts and the campaign committee jointly and severally liable for any civil or administrative penalties that result from not making the required disclaimer.

3) Require a campaign committee that pays a person for online political postings in support of or opposition to a candidate or ballot measure to do both of the following:

    a) Notify the person posting that failing to include the disclaimer may result in penalties under the PRA.

    b) Include information on a campaign report where the payment is disclosed that the payment was provided for a paid third-party post.

COMMENTS

As approved by the Assembly, this bill would have clarified that any member of the Medical Board of California may be removed by the authority that appointed that member for continued neglect of duties required by law, or for incompetence, or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct. Subsequent to the Assembly's approval, this bill was amended in the Senate to delete the Assembly-approved provisions and to add the current provisions. The provisions added in the Senate have not been heard in a policy committee in the Assembly during this legislative session.

California voters passed an initiative, Proposition 9, in 1974 that created the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and codified significant restrictions and prohibitions on candidates, officeholders, and lobbyists. That initiative is commonly known as the PRA. Amendments to the PRA that are not submitted to the voters, such as those contained in this bill, must further the purposes of the initiative and require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature.

According to the Author
″Social media and the growing influencer industry have changed the way candidates reach voters. As more campaigns pay influencers for content, either in favor of themselves or criticizing their opponents, we need to make sure there are appropriate disclosures for voters that those posts are essentially paid political advertisements. AB 1130 will create additional transparency for the public, require campaigns to properly report payments to influencers, and ensure that voters are not misled by content that looks organic and authentic when it's really the equivalent of an ad.″

Arguments in Support
The Fair Political Practices Commission writes, ″Disclaimer requirements in the campaign advertisement context provide important information to the public about how money is being spent in campaigns, and which individuals or entities are behind campaign messaging that seeks to influence voting choices. As technology evolves, the methods for communicating with voters expand, and it is prudent to examine how the law should be updated to adapt to these changes. To that end, the Legislature passed SB 678 (Umberg, Chapter 156) in 2023, sponsored by the FPPC, which imposed a new concurrent disclaimer requirement on content posted on the internet that supports or opposes a candidate or ballot measure when the poster, such as a social media 'influencer,' was paid by a committee in connection with the post. AB 1130 further strengthens that disclaimer requirement by imposing liability on the person who posts the content and the committee that paid them. This will incentivize compliance and authorize the FPPC to pursue appropriate enforcement actions in cases of noncompliance.″

Arguments in Opposition
None received.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the 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).

VOTES:

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: Vote Not Relevant
YES:

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: Vote Not Relevant
YES:

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Vote Not Relevant
YES:
ABS, ABST OR NV:

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0
YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes,

Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

UPDATED

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