
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Senator Susan Rubio

Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 1334	Hearing Date:	6/23/2026
Author:	Wallis		
Version:	6/16/2026 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Brian Duke		

SUBJECT: California State Library: study: official state energy

DIGEST: This bill requires the California State Library (CSL) to conduct a study, in consultation with the public, on the best candidate for the official state energy, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law establishes, among other things, the following state emblems:

- a. “Eureka” as the official State Motto.
- b. “The Golden State” as the official State Nickname.
- c. The golden poppy as the official State Flower, and April 6th of each year as California Poppy Day.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CSL to conduct a study, in consultation with the public, on the best candidate for the official state energy.
- 2) Requires the CSL to submit a report to the Legislature with the CSL’s recommendations based on the study.
- 3) Includes a sunset provision.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author’s office, “state symbols, like the state flower (California poppy), the state mammal (grizzly bear) or the newly minted state crustacean (Dungeness crab), embody our unique identity, heritage, and values. They tell our story. By adding a state energy to this esteemed list, we

emphasize the importance of clean energy in combating climate change. Choosing solar as the official state energy not only highlights California's abundant sunshine but also our environmental stewardship. It reflects our commitment to sustainability and innovation. This symbolic gesture reinforces our priorities in addressing climate change and fostering sustainable practices for generations to come."

California's Official State Emblems. California is renowned for its diverse landscapes, rich history, global influence, and its industrious and vibrant people. Boasting a unique array of official symbols, the state represents its natural beauty, historical significance, and cultural identity through emblems. These symbols serve as reminders for residents and visitors alike, emphasizing the state's distinct identity and the importance of preserving its heritage for future generations. As California continues to evolve and grow, its state emblems are intended to remain steadfast symbols of the state's past, present, and future.

For example, the golden poppy is codified as the official state flower, representing the state's vibrant landscapes and wildflower fields. Many people believe that emblem law prohibits cutting or damaging the California poppy because of its official designation. In fact, there is no law specifically protecting the California poppy, but the designation endears a special appreciation of the flower and has perpetuated the myth that no one may pick them. Designated in 1903, the golden poppy symbolizes the beauty of California's natural environment.

Several of the state's official emblems lean heavily on California's Gold Rush history. The official state motto – "Eureka" – is a Greek word that translates to "I have found it." In the context of California, the motto is closely tied to the California Gold Rush of 1848-1855. Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848 sparked a massive influx of fortune-seekers who flocked to California to seek wealth and prosperity. Native gold is designated as the official state mineral and mineralogic emblem, while "The Golden State" serves as the official state nickname, and Bodie is established as the official state gold rush ghost town.

California is now represented by a herd of nearly 50 state symbols, 45 of which are codified by statute in Government Code, including: state amphibian, animal, bat, bird, colors, crustacean, dance, dinosaur, fabric, flower, flag, folk dance, fossil, gemstone, gold rush ghost town, grass, historical society, insect, LGBTQ veterans memorial, lichen, marine fish, marine mammal, marine reptile, military museum, mineral, motto, mushroom, nickname, nuts, prehistoric artifact, reptile, rock, sea shell, seal, silver rush ghost town, slug, soil, song, sport, tall ship, tartan, tree, and Vietnam veterans memorial. A comprehensive overview of state symbols can be found on the [CLS's internet website](#).

Simply Symbolic? Designating a new state symbol can briefly flutter attention in the media (whether positive or negative) but does not always materially accomplish any policy goal such as supporting habitat, research, or protection for the identified symbol. Each new symbol may lead to a sort of “emblem fatigue” as successive designations produce progressively smaller spikes in public interest, fostering a growing frustration from the public.

Further, a February 1, 2024, article in CalMatters titled “[A bill for every problem? Why California lawmakers introduce longshots](#),” cites a 2002 Legislative Analyst’s Office estimate that “each bill cost at least \$18,000 to go from introduction to passage: Each bill is given a title and number, goes through analysis by committee staff and is printed out. An updated dollar figure from the legislative analyst was not available, but adjusting for inflation, each bill costs in the neighborhood of \$30,000.”

The article goes on to note that, “[e]ven Jerry Brown, who famously vetoed a bill with the message, ‘Not every human problem deserves a law,’ signed a majority of those sent to his desk while he was governor.”

California’s Proposition, 140 approved by the voters in 1990 – among other things – limited the total amount of expenditures allowed by the Legislature. The Legislature may wish to consider at what point establishing additional state symbols reaches a breaking point in a larger cost-benefit analysis. Alternative avenues currently exist that allow for the Legislature to recognize the myriad iconic animals, places, and things that make California a globally recognized cultural driver it is – without the need for creating new statute. Options may include resolutions which are commonly adopted and allow the Legislature to highlight particularly notable animals, plants, places, or items within the state.

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 1178 (Reyes, 2026) would have required the CSL to research, in consultation with the public, on the best candidate for the official state wasp and to submit a report to the Legislature with the CSL’s recommendations based on the study, as specified. (Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File)

SB 1214 (Ochoa Bogh, 2026) would have required the CSL to research, in consultation with the public, on the best candidate for the official State Butterfly and to submit a report to the Legislature with the CSL’s recommendations based on the study, as specified. (Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File)

SB 1286 (Richardson, 2026) would have required the CSL to research, in consultation with the public, on the best candidate for the official state pinniped and to submit a report to the Legislature with the CSL's recommendations based on the study, as specified. (Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File)

AB 1666 (Rogers, 2026) stated the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would designate Bigfoot as the official state cryptid. (Gutted and amended into an unrelated topic)

AB 3118 (Wallis, 2024) would have established solar energy as the official state energy. (Never heard in the Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT:

California Solar + Storage Association
Large-Scale Solar Association
The Living Desert Zoo Gardens

OPPOSITION:

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of the bill, the California Solar + Storage Association writes, in part, "California is the birthplace of costumer-sited solar energy systems and a longtime leader in large scale solar farms. Fifty years after the emergence of home solar, we now have more than two million systems installed on homes, businesses, schools, and farms, totaling more than 18 gigawatts of power, and nearly 1000 large solar generating facilities totaling around 25 GW. There is more solar capacity installed in California than in any other state, and solar is the leading source of renewable energy for our state."

Further, "California's commitment to solar energy has driven innovation, job growth, and economic development. The solar industry boasts international companies that are based in our state. We have successfully commercialized solar and created tens of thousands of solar jobs in project development and installation, manufacturing, distribution, operations and maintenance, and other sectors. Most of these jobs are in the distributed solar market. They are located in communities throughout the state, and a majority of the employment is with small local businesses."

“Solar has also brought better economic wellbeing for California families and businesses. It has helped make energy more affordable, including by avoiding expensive electric grid expansion projects and by allowing customers to invest in solar systems that let them produce their own energy from the sun. Because customers can install and own their own solar systems, solar has greatly expanded access to clean energy for millions of Californians. Solar customers reflect the demographic diversity of our state, with the largest segment of the rooftop solar market constituting households earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000.”

And finally, “[g]oing solar helps support California schools and nonprofits. The cost savings from generating solar power enables schools and organizations serving the public to devote more of their funds to programming. As one example, the rural Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District in Fresno County installed solar systems on three schools in 2012, and that enabled the school district to save its music program from being cut.”