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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 1521 (Committee on Judiciary) - Committee on Judiciary: judiciary omnibus

**Version:** July 15, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** JUD. 11 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Liah Burnley

**Bill Summary:** AB 1521 is the annual judiciary omnibus bill, which makes various noncontroversial changes to existing law, including clarifying existing law, deleting obsolete statutes, modernizing certain statutes, updating cross-references, and making various other nonsubstantive changes.

#### Fiscal Impact:

- Possible revenue loss of an unknown amount to the courts, since this bill requires a court to waive the filing fee for certain petitions filed in juvenile court. Under existing law, the petitions may be filed only in probate court and are subject to a filing fee of \$205 per petition. Actual revenue loss will depend on the number of petitions filed in juvenile court rather than probate court.
- Unknown, potential workload cost pressures to the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to create a new process for receiving probate notices, and to change its related policies and procedures. DCSS anticipates this workload will be absorbable within its existing resources but indicates the implementation date for the probate provision is not feasible for the department.
- Possible costs to local child support agencies (LCSAs) (General Fund, local funds, federal funds) of an unknown amount for increased workload resulting from probate petitions. DCSS provides guidance and support to LCSAs, which enforce payment of child support orders. LCSAs may see an increase in probate actions to process resulting from the bill.

**Background:** This bill is the Judiciary Committee omnibus bill that makes various noncontroversial changes to existing law with the purpose of increasing efficiencies in the legislative process, conserving legislative resources, and eliminating the need to unnecessarily hear a number of technical, clarifying, or modest stand-alone bills that might otherwise have to be introduced and require individual consideration by the Legislature.

#### Proposed Law:

- Existing law requires any printed or form agreement that initially establishes, or is intended to establish, or alters the terms of any agreement that previously established a right to compensation to be paid to a real estate licensee for the sale of residential real property containing not more than four residential units, or for the sale of a mobilehome to contained a specified notice.

- This bill corrects an erroneous reference in that notice from “seller” to “buyer.”
- Existing law prohibits a person from furnishing information regarding a medical debt to a consumer credit reporting agency, requires a contract for medical debt entered into on and after July 1, 2025, to contain a specified notice stating that information, and makes a contract entered into on and after July 1, 2025 that does not include the required notice void and unenforceable.
  - This bill clarifies that the contract referenced above is a written contract.
- Existing law establishes the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and prohibits debt collectors from engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the collection of covered commercial debts entered into, renewed, sold, or assigned on or after July 1, 2025. Defines “covered commercial debt” for these purposes.
  - This bill provides that covered commercial debt does not include a trade credit or a commercial financing transaction in which the recipient is a dealer as defined by Section 285 of the Vehicle Code, or an affiliate of the dealer, pursuant to a specific commercial financing offer or commercial open-end credit plan of at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), including, but not limited to, a commercial loan made pursuant to that commercial financing transaction.
- Existing law prohibits, under the California Public Records Act, a person from knowingly posting the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official, or of the official’s residing spouse or child, on the internet knowing that person is an elected or appointed official and intending to cause imminent great bodily harm that is likely to occur or threatening to cause imminent great bodily harm to that individual, and provides that a violation is a misdemeanor, unless the violation leads to the bodily injury of the official, or their residing spouse or child, in which case the violation is a misdemeanor or a felony.
  - This bill moves this provision into the Penal Code.
- Existing law prohibits, under the California Public Records Act, any person, business, or association from soliciting, selling, or trading on the internet the home address or telephone number of an elected or appointed official with the intent to cause imminent great bodily harm to the official or to any person residing at the official’s home address. Authorizes an official whose home address or telephone number is solicited, sold, or traded in violation of this prohibition to bring an action in court and provides that they can receive specified damages.
  - This bill moves this provision into the Civil Code.
- Existing law requires a mortgage servicer, trustee, mortgagee, beneficiary, or authorized agent to not record a notice of default, notice of sale, or conduct a trustee’s sale while a complete first lien loan modification application is pending,

and until the borrower has been provided with a written determination by the mortgage servicer regarding that borrower's eligibility for the requested loan modification, if a borrower submits a complete application for a first lien loan modification offered by, or through, the borrower's mortgage servicer at least five business days before a scheduled foreclosure sale. This provision applies to a person or entity that makes and services seven or fewer loans for the purchase of residential real property in a calendar year.

- This bill makes the above requirement apply, instead, to a person who, or entity that, services seven or fewer loans encumbering residential property located in California in a calendar year.
- Existing law requires a mortgage servicer to promptly establish a single point of contact and provide a borrower one or more direct means of communication with that single point of contact when a borrower requests a foreclosure prevention alternative. This provision does not apply to a person or entity that makes and services seven or fewer loans for the purchase of residential real property in a calendar year.
  - This bill provides, instead, that the above requirement does not apply to a person or entity that services seven or fewer loans encumbering residential property located in California in a calendar year.
- Existing law requires the mortgagee, beneficiary, or authorized agent, with respect to residential property containing no more than four dwelling units that is subject to a power of sale contained in a first lien deed of trust, to provide the trustee a fair market value of the property at least 10 days prior to the initially scheduled date of sale, and prohibits the trustee from selling the property at the initially scheduled date of sale for less than 67 percent of that fair market value of the property.
  - This bill changes references to "initial trustee's sale" and "initially scheduled date of sale" to "first sale at which a bid can be made."
- Existing law requires a meet and confer declaration in support of a motion to state facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by the motion.
  - This bill instead requires a showing of a reasonable and good faith attempt either: in person, by telephone, or by videoconference to resolve informally each issue presented by the motion.
- Existing law provides that failing to confer in person, by telephone, or by letter with an opposing party or attorney, in a reasonable and good faith attempt to resolve informally any dispute concerning discovery, constitutes a misuse of the discovery process when the section governing a particular discovery motion requires the filing of a declaration stating facts showing that an attempt at informal resolution has been made.

- This bill clarifies that failing to attempt to confer as described above also constitutes a misuse of the discovery process and updates the statute to allow for conferring by videoconference instead of conferring by letter.
- Existing law authorizes a plaintiff in an unlawful detainer action or other specified proceeding to propound interrogatories to a party without leave of court at any time that is five days after service of the summons on, or appearance by, that party, whichever occurs first.
  - This bill extends the above time to propound interrogatories 10 days after service of summons.
- Existing law authorizes a plaintiff in an unlawful detainer action or other specified proceeding to make a demand for inspection, copying, testing, or sampling without leave of court at any time that is five days after service of the summons on, or appearance by, the party to whom the demand is directed, whichever occurs first.
  - This bill extends the above time to make a demand to 10 days after service of summons.
- Existing law authorizes a plaintiff in an unlawful detainer action or other specified proceeding to make requests for admission by a party without leave of court at any time that is five days after service of the summons on, or appearance by, that party, whichever occurs first.
  - This bill extends the time to make a request to 10 days after service of summons.
- Existing law authorizes a verified petition to be filed by any beneficially interested person with the clerk of the superior court in and for: (a) the county in which the birth, death, or marriage is alleged to have occurred, (b) the county of residence of the person whose birth or marriage it is sought to establish, or (c) the county in which the person was domiciled at the date of death for an order to judicially establish the fact of, and the time and place of, a birth, death, or marriage that is not registered or for which a certified copy is not obtainable. The fee for filing a petition is \$205. (Health & Saf. Code §§ 103450 & 103470.)
  - This bill provides that a petition to establish a record of birth, death, or marriage of a minor or nonminor who is alleged or adjudged to be a person that is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as specified, may be made and heard in the juvenile court having jurisdiction over the minor or nonminor, and requires the court to waive the filing fee for all petitions heard in the juvenile court.
- Existing law requires that no later than 90 days after the date letters are first issued to a general personal representative, the general personal representative or estate attorney is required to give notice of the death to the Director of Health Care Services if the decedent received health care under Medi-Cal or the Waxman-Duffy Prepaid Health Plan Act or was the surviving spouse of a person

who received healthcare under those programs. The Director of Health Care Services has four months after notice is given to file a claim against the estate

- This bill requires that no later than 90 days after the date letters are first issued to a general personal representative, the general personal representative or estate attorney is required to give notice of the death to the Director of the California Department of Child Support Services (Director) if the general personal representative or estate attorney knows or has reason to believe the decedent had a child support obligation under an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction. The Director has four months to assert a claim after receiving notice. This provision only applies to estates for which letters are issued on and after January 1, 2026.

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