
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 155	Hearing Date:	September 10, 2025
Author:	Committee on Budget		
Version:	September 8, 2025 As amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Timothy Griffiths		

Subject: General Government: California Civic Media Program

Summary: This bill provides statutory changes necessary to implement the Budget Act of 2025 in relation to economic development. Specifically, the bill creates the California Civil Media Program, establishes a fund for it, and makes an ongoing annual General Fund contribution of \$10 million to that fund.

Proposed Law: This bill:

- 1) Establishes the California Civic Media Program to be administered by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) for specified purposes, including enhancing the public good through supporting a robust and dynamic California press corps.
- 2) Requires the Director of GO-Biz to establish and appoint a nine-person advisory board, as specified, to provide recommendations to Go-Biz for the allocation of private moneys in the fund.
- 3) Creates the Civic Media Fund in the State Treasury of California to be administered by GO-Biz.
 - a. Provides that all moneys deposited in the fund, including General Fund appropriations and private bequeaths, donations, gifts, or grants are continuously appropriated.
 - b. Requires public money to be accounted for separately from private money in the fund.
 - c. Allows GO-Biz to accept contributions from private sources, including private for-profit and nonprofit organizations.
 - d. Directs GO-Biz to direct the expenditure of public money in the fund consistent with the purpose of the Civil Media Program.
 - e. Prohibits more than 7.5 percent of the fund from being used for the administration of the California Civic Media Program.

- f. Allows GO-Biz to enter into agreements with third parties for purposes of administering programs funded, in whole or in part, with public moneys allocated from the fund.
 - g. Requires GO-Biz to prioritize allocations to support local and community news organizations, when expending public moneys in the fund.
 - h. Prohibits, in any fiscal year, the total expenditure of public money out of the fund from exceeding the total aggregate expenditure of funds from private sources, as specified.
- 4) Makes a continuous annual appropriation of \$10 million from the General Fund to the California Civic Media Fund.

Fiscal Effect: This bill makes an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$10 million annually to the California Civic Media Fund.

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