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THIRD READING

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Bill No: AB 155  
Author: Committee on Budget  
Amended: 9/8/25 in Senate  
Vote: 21

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ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-17, 3/20/25 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development:  
California Civic Media Program

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** 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.

**ANALYSIS:**

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:** Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

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

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-17, 3/20/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Ahrens, Alvarez, Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Essayli, Hoover, Irwin, Krell, Papan, Wallis

Prepared by: Timothy Griffiths / B. & F.R. / (916) 651-4103

9/12/25 9:11:09

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