
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1560
Author: Tangipa (R), et al.
Amended: 8/12/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Lobbyist certification

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years after a conviction for a crime of public corruption.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/12/26 resolve chaptering conflicts with AB 2592 (Pacheco).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Regulates lobbyists through the Political Reform Act (PRA), including by requiring lobbying firms and lobbyist employers to register with the Secretary of State (SOS) and file periodic reports disclosing their activities.
- 2) Requires, as part of the registration process, that each lobbyist submit a lobbyist certification with the SOS. This certification shall include:
 - a) A recent photograph;
 - b) The full name, business address, and telephone number of the lobbyist;

- c) A statement that the lobbyist understands the statutory gift limit; and
 - d) A statement that the lobbyist has or will complete an ethics course.
- 3) Specifies administrative, civil, and criminal penalties for violating provisions of the PRA, including making any person who knowingly or willingly violates the PRA guilty of a misdemeanor. Conviction of a misdemeanor under the PRA precludes a person from being a candidate for office or acting as a lobbyist for four years, unless the court at sentencing determines this provision is not applicable.
- 4) Prohibits a person from being a candidate for office or serving in elected office in California if the person has been convicted of a felony involving accepting, giving or offering to give any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of these crimes.

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years after a felony conviction for a crime of public corruption, defined in 4) of existing law. If a person is already a registered lobbyist and is convicted of such a crime, then the person's certification as a lobbyist shall be void upon the conviction, and the lobbyist is required to terminate their registration immediately upon conviction.
- 2) Requires a lobbyist certification submitted to the SOS to include a statement that the lobbyist has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years.
- 3) Prohibits the SOS from accepting a lobbying certification from a person who has indicated on the lobbying certification that they have been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years.

Background

Proposition 9, which appeared on the June 1974 ballot, created the PRA and established California's system of regulating lobbying activity, campaign finance, and conflicts of interest for public officials. Proposition 9 created the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA. The PRA regulates lobbyists, including requiring lobbying firms and lobbyist employers to register with the SOS and file periodic reports disclosing their activities.

The PRA requires any person who qualifies as a lobbyist, and thus works for a lobbying firm or a lobbyist employer, to submit a lobbyist certification and include a recent photograph of the lobbyist. The SOS makes a list, with photographs, of all lobbyists publicly available on its website, which also provides lists of registered lobbying firms and lobbyist employers. The SOS publishes a directory of registered individual lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers.

Comments

Author's Statement. Public trust in government depends on accountability and integrity in the policymaking process. California law already recognizes that certain crimes of public corruption, including offenses involving the misuse or theft of public funds, are serious enough to prevent someone from running for public office for life. Yet under current law, those same individuals can still register as lobbyists and be paid to influence the decisions of the Legislature. That double standard undermines public confidence in government. This bill closes this loophole by prohibiting individuals convicted of public corruption from serving as lobbyists in California.

If someone has been convicted of corrupting the public process, they should not be allowed to profit from influencing it. This bill is a commonsense step to restore integrity, strengthen transparency, and ensure that Sacramento holds lobbyists to the same ethical standard expected of those who seek elected office.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/11/26)

Jerry P. Dyer, Mayor, City of Fresno
Nick Richardson, Fresno City Councilmember, District 6
California Common Cause
City of Bishop
County of Fresno Board of Supervisors
County of Inyo Board of Supervisors
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Fresno County District Attorney's Office

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/11/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Fresno County, the Fresno County District Attorney, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, and the County of Inyo write in support of the bill:

Over the years, our state has seen several high-profile cases in which individuals found guilty of public corruption-related charges continue working in an industry where public trust is essential. Allowing those facing such serious charges to lobby only encourages the problem. California cannot afford to let individuals with a record of unethical behavior influence policy and shape decisions that affect all Californians.

[This bill] is a straightforward, common-sense reform that protects the integrity of our government. By keeping those with corruption charges out of the lobbying process, this bill will help to restore public trust, promote fairness, and ensure that decisions are guided by the public interest, not what benefits individuals with questionable morals.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 5/28/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Elhawary, Garcia, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, McKinnor, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Ward, Wilson

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