

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1572 (Alanis) – As Amended March 26, 2026

Policy Committee:	Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism	Vote:	9 - 0
	Education		9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes a California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) background check and annual registration platform for officials consisting of a statewide and standardized background screening until July 1, 2028, required rules tests, training, certifications and education, and proof of liability insurance. Beginning July 1, 2028, requires the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), to regularly publish a list on its internet website individuals who have had their Activity Supervisor clearance suspended or revoked, verification of which replaces the background screening. The bill authorizes only officials deemed eligible by the CIF platform to be assigned for contests.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time General Fund costs of \$635,000 and \$625,000 General Fund ongoing annually for the CTC to hire additional analytical and legal staff to manage additional screening, case intake, and misconduct caseload.
- 2) Minor and absorbable costs to CIF to oversee the registration platform and verification process. CIF is not funded using state funds, though a portion of its revenue is generated by fees from participating schools, as described in more detail in the discussion of background, below.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** The CIF governs competitive athletics in California for grades nine through twelve. The CIF is organized under CDE and is governed by a council consisting of high school superintendents, principals, athletic directors, educators, and other organizations. Amongst other duties, the CIF adopts rules and regulations for school athletics and enforces them. 1,600 schools are members of CIF, meaning the schools adhere to CIF rules and regulations. Over 760,000 student-athletes participate in athletics at CIF member schools annually. CIF views the development of guidelines such as those required in this bill as part of its core mission.

With the exception of some one-time funding during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CIF receives no state funding. The CIF is funded primarily from (a) membership fees from member schools (\$0.88 per student), which likely comes from member schools' Proposition 98 General Fund general purpose funding, (b) corporate sponsorships, and (c) CIF event ticket sales.

Current law requires fingerprinting and background checks only for school employees and contractors, including athletic program coaches, but no such requirement exists for game officials. The CIF states, writing in support of this bill, “CIF has voluntarily instituted a system that would meet the requirements of AB 1572, and we believe the health and safety of all interscholastic athletics participants—students, parents, coaches, and officials—is worthy of being codified into law.”

- 2) **Related Legislation.** AB 1665 (Pacheco), of the current legislative session, requires a CIF coach to complete a student mental health education and training program every two years. AB 1665 is pending hearing in this committee.

AB 1626 (Gabriel), of the current legislative session, would prescribe the topics that must be covered in the training required pursuant to AB 1665 and requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to identify existing training or develop a model youth athletics behavioral and mental health training for youth sport coaches. AB 1626 is pending hearing in this committee.

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