
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1572 (Alanis) - California Interscholastic Federation: officials: registration, certification, and eligibility verification

Version: March 26, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0, PUB. S. 6 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to require its officials to annually register through a platform selected by the CIF to verify the official's eligibility to officiate CIF contests which will include a statewide and standardized background screening until July 1, 2028. Commencing July 1, 2028, the platform will include a record of a valid Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate (ASCC) issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

Fiscal Impact:

- The CTC estimates General Fund costs of \$625,000 each year to hire additional analytical and legal staff to manage the additional screenings, case intake, and misconduct caseload.
- The costs for the CIF to oversee the registration platform and verification process is expected to be minor and absorbable.
- The Department of Justice does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

Background: Existing law states that the CIF is a voluntary organization that consists of school and school-related personnel with responsibility for administering interscholastic athletic activities in secondary schools. The CIF 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. There are approximately 1,600 schools that are members of the CIF with over 760,000 student-athletes participating in athletics at CIF member schools each year.

Proposed Law: This bill requires the CIF to require its officials to annually register through a platform selected by the CIF to verify the official's eligibility to officiate CIF contests. It requires the platform to consist of all of the following components:

1. Until July 1, 2028, a statewide and standardized background screening, and commencing July 1, 2028, a record of a valid ASCC issued by the CTC, including the applicable expiration date.
2. A record of rules tests, online training modules, sport-specific annual certifications, and continuing education requirements.

3. A record of liability insurance coverage.

This bill requires, commencing July 1, 2028, that the CTC regularly publish a list on its internet website of ASCC holders who have their certificate suspended or revoked by CTC.

This bill requires the CIF, through its chosen platform, to verify that all specified components are complete before an official is deemed and marked as eligible to receive an assignment to officiate.

This bill requires that the CIF complete the specified verification annually until July 1, 2028, and requires, commencing July 1, 2028, that the CIF maintain the platform and, as part of the verification requirement, ensure that the chosen platform regularly reviews the list published by the CTC in order to update the eligibility of the officials whose ASCC has been suspended or revoked.

This bill authorizes that only officials who are deemed eligible in the selected platform be assigned to CIF contests by assignors or officiating associations.

This bill requires the CIF to ensure that its participating member schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools can access the platform to verify the eligibility of an official, but shall not have access to the sensitive information in each individual component of the platform.

This bill prohibits the CIF from being considered an employer of officials.

Staff Comments: This bill requires officials to annually register for a platform selected by the CIF to verify the official's eligibility to officiate CIF contests, including having done fingerprinting and a criminal background check as well as that official having liability insurance coverage. According to the author, "AB 1572 is necessary to ensure that California's student athletes compete in safe, fair, and well-regulated environments. By establishing a consistent standard for CIF officials, we can give schools and parents confidence that officials assigned to games are qualified and accountable. This measure will also promote greater transparency and consistency across leagues, reducing uneven enforcement of rules. Ultimately, it strengthens the integrity of high school athletics and reinforces a commitment to protecting the well-being of every student athlete."

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