
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1776 (Aguiar-Curry) - Cartwright Act: violations

Version: August 3, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 9 - 2

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 1776 would amend the Cartwright Act, California's primary antitrust law to prohibit any person from monopolizing or monopsonizing any part of trade or commerce and would require procompetitive justifications of the alleged conduct to be evaluated within the same relevant market.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact: Potentially significant costs to the Department of Justice if the Attorney General (AG) brings civil actions for violations of the Cartwright Act. Monopolization is only available under the federal Sherman Act. If the AG pursues monopolization under the Cartwright Act in state court, costs could be higher. (Unfair Competition Law Fund, Attorney General Antitrust Account).

Cost pressures of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts. Actual costs will depend on the number of new actions created by the bill and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. Complex cases, an action is provisionally a complex case if it involves antitrust or trade regulations claims, are more time consuming. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated \$70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Author Amendments: Make technical changes.

Committee Amendments:

Provide that action may be initiated only by the Attorney General or a district attorney.

State that any action brought pursuant to, or under, this section is deemed a complex case as specified.

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