
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1864 (Berman) - Gene synthesis equipment manufacturers and providers

Version: May 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 10 - 0, JUD. 13 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1864 would impose requirements on synthetic nucleic acid providers and benchtop nucleic acid synthesis equipment manufacturers, as specified.

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

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

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, likely low millions, for the California Department of Justice for state administration. This would include costs for increased workload to work with an expert to assess when there is a violation, and to litigate violations of the law.
- No fiscal impact for the California Department of Public Health for state administration.
- Unknown, potential workload costs to the courts related to enforcement of civil penalties under the bill (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). 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 increase the amount appropriated for trial court operations.

Author Amendments: Require providers and manufacturers to attest their compliance and post that attestation on a public internet website; clarify effective dates; and increase the civil penalty amount from \$1,000 per day to \$5,000 per day.

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