

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2115 (Ramos) – As Introduced February 18, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary Vote: 12 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes a formal apology from the California State Legislature to California Native Americans for historical policies of violence, displacement, and cultural suppression, and requires the installation of a commemorative plaque in the State Capitol.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Minor, absorbable costs to the Secretary of State for submitting the formal apology to the State Archives, which the office reports would be part of its normal course of business.
- 2) General Services estimates \$500,000 in one-time costs and \$250 per year in ongoing costs to comply with this bill (General Fund). General Services estimates one-time costs of \$235,000 for the design on the plaque, project management, environmental and historic documentation, and regulatory reviews and bidding. General Services additionally estimates \$265,000 for installation of the plaque and project management and inspection. In 2024, Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer introduced similar legislation, AB 3089, Chapter 624, addressing the issue of chattel slavery. At that time, both the apology and the commissioning of the plaque were expected to be under \$150,000. General Services estimates a higher price tag for this bill, citing unknowns about the plaque, including its size and material. The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year.

COMMENTS:

Beginning with the 1850 Act for the Government and Protection of Indians, the California Legislature has enacted laws that facilitated the removal of Native Americans from their lands, created systems of indentured servitude, denied Native Americans the right to vote and to testify in court, and funded militia expeditions against Native communities. The state spent nearly \$1.3 million on military campaigns against Native Californians between 1851 and 1859. In 2019, Governor Newsom issued an executive apology and established the California Truth and Healing Council. Last year, this committee passed AJR 18 (Ramos), acknowledging these wrongs. This bill takes the next step by codifying a formal legislative apology.

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