

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Blanca Rubio, Chair

AB 2173 (Wallis) – As Amended March 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Gambling Control Act.

SUMMARY: This bill would require the California Gambling Control Commission (CGCC or Commission) to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CGCC to post a public record of every vote on the Commission's internet website no later than the close of business on the 2nd business day after the meeting at which the vote was taken.
- 2) Make technical and clarifying changes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides, under the Gambling Control Act (Act), for the licensure and regulation of various legalized gambling activities and establishments by the CGCC and the investigation and enforcement of those activities and establishments by the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- 2) Requires five members to be appointed to the CGCC by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the California State Senate.
- 3) Requires that the Commission collectively include individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, such as experience in finance or accounting, law with regulatory expertise, law enforcement or criminal investigation, business or government, and representation of the general public.
- 4) Specifies that a majority of the appointed members of the CGCC is a quorum and that a concurring vote of three members of the CGCC is required for any official action of the CGCC or for the exercise of any of the CGCC's duties, powers, or functions.
- 6) Requires that a public record of every vote of the CGCC be maintained at its principal office.
- 6) Requires, under the Bagley-Keene Act, that all meetings of state bodies be open to the public, with certain specific exceptions.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill is keyed fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Purpose of the bill. According to the author's office, "This bill would require the CGCC to post a public record of every vote on the Commission's website no later than the close of business on the second business day following the meeting at which the vote was taken. By doing so, the bill enhances transparency for members of the public who wish to stay informed about the Commission's actions."

Background.

California Gambling Control Commission. The CGCC is the official gambling commission of the state of California. The five member CGCC acts as the regulatory body over gambling establishments, all persons or transactions regarding ownership interest of gambling enterprises, third party providers and proposition players services, and tribal casinos. The CGCC is responsible for setting policy, establishing regulations, making determinations of suitability for gaming employees and other individuals and entities, issuing licenses, acting as the administrator of gaming revenues deposited into the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund and the trustee over the revenues deposited into the Gaming Revenue Sharing Trust Fund, and administering the provisions of the Act and the tribal-state gaming compacts.

Gambling Control Act. The Act provides the CGCC with jurisdiction over the operation of gambling establishments in California. The Act requires every owner, lessee, or employee of a gambling establishment to obtain and maintain a valid state gambling license. The Act assigns the CGCC the responsibility of assuring that gambling licenses are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is harmful to the public health, safety, or welfare.

The Act directs the CGCC to issue licenses only to those persons of good character, honesty and integrity, whose prior activities, criminal record, if any; reputation, habits and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state. The DOJ conducts background and field investigations and enforces the provisions of the Act in this regard.

The Act currently requires the CGCC to maintain a public record at the Commission's principal office. However, there is no requirement that the vote be placed anywhere on the CGCC's internet website. The author's office points out that this hampers the ability of the public to be informed on the votes that the Commission takes.

AB 2173 would require the CGCC to post a public record of every vote on the Commission's internet website no later than the close of business on the 2nd business day after the meeting at which the vote was taken.

Related legislation. AB 2644 (Rubio) of 2026. This bill would require the Governor to notify the Legislature when the Governor removes a member of the CGCC for cause. (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization)

AB 2793 (Governmental Organization) of 2026. This bill would modify existing law to require that one member of the CGCC, among other criteria, to be an attorney with regulatory or gaming law experience. (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization)

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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