
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Senator Susan Rubio

Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2173	Hearing Date:	6/9/2026
Author:	Wallis		
Version:	3/19/2026	Introduced	
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Felipe Lopez		

SUBJECT: Gambling Control Act

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Gambling Control Commission (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.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides, under the Gambling Control Act (Act), for the licensure and regulation of various legalized gambling activities and establishments by the Commission and the investigation and enforcement of those activities and establishments by the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- 2) 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.
- 3) Requires the Commission to keep a record of all proceedings at its regular and special meetings and to make these records open to public inspection.
- 4) Requires DOJ to maintain a file of all applications for licenses under the Act and a record of all actions taken with respect to those applications, and to make this file and record open to public inspections.
- 5) Requires, under the Bagley-Keene Act, that all meetings of state bodies be open to the public, with certain specific exceptions.

This bill requires the 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.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "the bill enhances transparency for members of the public who wish to stay informed about the [Commission's] actions, by requiring the commission 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 which the vote was taken."

Gambling Control Act. The Act provides the Commission 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 Commission 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 Commission 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 Commission to maintain a public record at the Commission's principal office. However, there is no requirement that the vote be placed anywhere on the Commission's internet website.

The Act requires that the Commission maintain a public record of every vote at the Commission's principal office. This bill requires the Commission to post any vote taken by the Commission on its Internet Web site no later than the close of business of the second business day after the meeting at which the vote was taken.

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 1235 (G.O., 2026) requires the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Committees on Governmental Organization of the removal of a member of the Commission. (Pending in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

AB 2644 (Rubio, 2026) requires the Governor to notify the Legislature when the Governor removes a member of the Commission for cause. (Pending in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee)

AB 2793 (G.O., 2026) requires that one member of the Commission be an attorney with regulatory or gaming law experience. (Pending in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee).

SB 346 (Ochoa-Bogh, 2023) would have required 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. (Held in the Assembly Floor Inactive File)

SB 899 (Governmental Organization, 2022) would have required the 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. (Held on the Assembly Floor Inactive File)

SB 302 (Governmental Organization, 2021) would have required the 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. (Gutted and amended to an unrelated issue)

SB 869 (Governmental Organization, 2020) would have required the 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. (Gutted and amended to an unrelated issue)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT:

Capitol Business Alliance

OPPOSITION:

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Capitol Business Alliance, “prompt online posting of votes will help reduce confusion, improve accountability, and allow affected parties to understand commission action in a timely manner. AB 2173 does not create a new compliance burden for private

businesses. Instead, it places a modest transparency obligation on a state regulatory body. That is good government, and it is consistent with the principle that regulated businesses and taxpayers deserve accessible information about decisions made in their name.”