SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2221 (Irwin) - Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act

Version: April 23, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 13 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 2221 would amend the Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act to require registration, reporting and other submissions to the Attorney General (AG) be submitted through the Department of Justice (DOJ) online filing service. The bill would clarify grounds for when a registration has become delinquent.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated $830,000 in FY 2026-27 to the Charitable Trusts Section of DOJ for limited-term, increased workload and an external consultant to maintain the online filing service. These services would be to assist a person or entity that is required to file registration, reporting, or other submissions with the registry (Registry of Charitable Trusts Fund).

Background: AB 2221 is the latest step in an eight-year effort to update and modernize California's online charitable giving laws. While implementation of AB 488 (Irwin) Chapter 616/2021 has been largely successful, issues remain. For example, some charities were removed from digital fundraising platforms due to minor clerical errors, preventing them from raising funds during critical periods. In addition, certain policy issues left to the regulatory process have created challenges for both charities and fundraising platforms.

Proposed Law: The bill would make the following changes to the Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act:

1) Provides that, before a person or entity's registration becomes delinquent, written notice shall be sent to the registrant indicating the reason or reasons for deficiency.

2) Provides that, if the Registry does not process a filing submitted by a person or entity who is not registered or whose registration is expired or delinquent within 10 days from the date of filing, the registration shall be deemed in good standing.

3) Requires administrative action to be taken in accordance with specified regulations governing administrative enforcement of the Act before a person or entity's registration becomes suspended or revoked or the person or entity is subject to a cease-and-desist order.

4) Specifies the grounds for which a registration may become delinquent.

5) Requires submissions with the Registry to be made through the AG's online filing service, which is expected to be operational by the end of this year.

6) Makes changes to requirements for how a charitable fundraising platform or platform charity is to promptly ensure donations and grants of recommended donations are disposed of.

7) Defines "good standing" to mean that a platform charity, recipient charitable organization, or other charitable organization's tax-exempt standing has not been revoked by the Franchise Tax Board, or the charity or organization is not prohibited from soliciting or operating in the state by the AG on the basis of a cease and desist order, delinquency, suspension, or revocation.

8) Recasts the requirement to promptly ensure donations are sent to recipient charitable organizations to additionally allow them to be promptly sent to an alternate recipient charitable organization, in accordance with required disclosures.