

specific to ARB's technical and regulatory document development (Air Pollution Control Fund).

- 2) Potential costs of an unknown amount to the Office of Data and Innovation (ODI) to develop additional tools to further support adoption of plain language principles and practices (GF). Although ODI is not assigned a specific role in this bill, ODI created the state's existing plain language standard.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of GF structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Plain language ensures that everyone, including those with cognitive disabilities, limited literacy, or language barriers, can easily find, understand, and use information to meet their needs. If it's not accessible, it's not acceptable. AB 2360 improves access and equity by ensuring state communications are clear, consistent, and written in plain language, so all Californians can better understand the laws that affect their lives and participate more fully in government.

This bill is sponsored by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and supported by other disability services groups.

- 2) **Plain Language in State Government.** Existing law requires each state agency to write each document the agency produces in plain, straightforward language that avoids technical terms as much as possible and uses a coherent, easily readable style. A covered document includes a contract, form, license, announcement, regulation, manual, memo, or any other written communication needed to execute the agency's duties. In support of this standard, ODI offers an online course for state employees titled "Introduction to Plain Language for the Public Sector" that teaches: (a) the principles of plain language, (b) the benefits of using plain language, including its impact on equity, and (c) how to create products and services that align with the state's plain language standard. This bill provides that the state's existing standard applies to both digital and printed documents and requires each state agency to create and implement a plain language policy.

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