

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2592 (Pacheco) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Elections Vote: 8 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill, effective January 1, 2029, transfers from the appropriate legislative ethics committees to the Fair Political Practices Committee (FPPC) the obligation to develop, maintain and offer an orientation course for registered lobbyists on the relevant ethical issues and laws relating to lobbying, and on each house of the legislature's policies against harassment, including sexual harassment, in connection with lobbying activities.

The bill requires the FPPC to develop the lobbyist orientation course in consultation with the appropriate legislative ethics committees and provides the committees final approval over the content of the course that relates to the legislature's policies against harassment, including sexual harassment. The bill declares that the course is to be available on-demand through an online platform, internet webpage or application. Finally, it authorizes the FPPC to charge a \$50 fee, adjusted for inflation every odd-numbered year, to each lobbyist that takes the training course.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

This bill creates significant new workload at the FPPC, largely by transferring lobbyist orientation to the FPPC from the Legislature. The FPPC estimates it will need one new analyst, at an annual cost of \$114,000, and annual software licensing costs of \$80,000 (General Fund).

The FPPC also anticipates approximately \$60,000 in revenue from the fee the FPPC may charge to each lobbyist that takes the training course (General Fund).

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:**

Statute charges the Legislature with providing training for those lobbying state government. Specifically, the law requires at least twice a year the appropriate legislative ethics committees to provide an orientation course on the relevant ethical issues and laws relating to lobbying, in consultation with the FPPC. The law directs committees to charge fees on lobbyists for attending the orientation course at an amount that will enable the lobbyists' participation in the course to be funded from those fees to the fullest extent possible.

This bill is sponsored by the FPPC. Statute charges the FPPC with administering and enforcing the Political Reform Act of 1974, which exists so that, among other things, the activities of

lobbyists are regulated and their finances disclosed in order that improper influences will not be directed at public officials. According to the FPPC:

While Assembly and Senate Ethics Counsel do an excellent job conducting the training, the FPPC is more appropriately suited to provide this training as the experts on the state's lobbying laws and the agency charged with advising on the lobbying rules outside of this training. Shifting to an on-demand model will also assist lobbyists in fulfilling their training duty.

There is no opposition registered against this bill.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Jay Dickenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081