
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2592 (Pacheco) - Lobbyist training

Version: April 16, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: E. & C.A. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: AB 2592 would transfer from the Legislature to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) the duty to provide statutorily required training to lobbyists.

Fiscal Impact: FPPC indicates that it would require (1) one new analyst, at an ongoing annual cost of \$107,000, and (2) annual software licensing costs of \$80,000, to implement the provisions of the bill (General Fund). FPPC estimates \$60,000 in revenue from the fee it may charge to each lobbyist that takes the training course (General Fund).

Background: The California Political Reform Act, approved by voters in 1974 through Proposition 9, established the state's framework for regulating campaign finance, lobbying activity, and conflicts of interest involving public officials. The measure also created FPPC, which is responsible for administering and enforcing these requirements. Among its provisions, the Act requires lobbyists and lobbying entities to register and periodically disclose their activities and expenditures.

In 1990, the Legislature enacted the Ethics in Government Act, a comprehensive ethics reform measure that strengthened public accountability and transparency requirements. As part of these reforms, legislators, designated legislative employees, and lobbyists became subject to periodic ethics training intended to promote compliance with state ethics laws and standards of conduct. Current law requires these ethics orientation courses to be conducted by the Assembly and Senate ethics committees, thereby placing responsibility for administering the training within the Legislature.

Proposed Law: This bill, among other things, would do the following:

- Repeal, effective January 1, 2029, the requirements in existing law for the legislative ethics committees to conduct training for registered lobbyists and to impose fees to fund that lobbyist training.
- Require FPPC, beginning in 2029, to develop, maintain and offer a training course for registered lobbyists on ethical issues and laws relating to lobbying, and on the Legislature's policies against harassment, including sexual harassment, in connection with lobbying activities.
- Require FPPC to consult with the appropriate legislative ethics committees in developing the training course curriculum and gives the legislative ethics committees final approval over content relating to the Legislature's policies against harassment.

- Require the training course to be available on-demand through an online platform, internet webpage, or application.
- Permit the FPPC to impose a \$50 fee per lobbyist for taking the training course and to adjust that fee for inflation in every odd-numbered year, rounded to the nearest \$10.
- Require funds collected by the Assembly and Senate Legislative Ethics Committees from lobbyist training that are unused before January 1, 2029, to be transferred to FPPC for purposes of developing the lobbyist training.

Related Legislation:

- AB 1789 (Boerner) would require candidates and campaign treasurers beginning in 2029 to take an FPPC-provided training course on the requirements of the PRA. The bill is currently pending in this Committee.
- AB 2055 (Levine, Chapter 964, Statutes of 2018) requires that lobbying ethics courses include information on the policies against harassment, including sexual harassment, established by each house of the Legislature.

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