
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2592
Author: Pacheco (D)
Amended: 4/16/26 in Assembly
Vote: 27

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/16/26

AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Lobbyist training

SOURCE: California Fair Political Practices Commission

DIGEST: This bill transfers from the Legislature to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) the duty to provide statutorily required training to lobbyists.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires lobbying firms and lobbyists employers to register, and as part of that, each lobbyist to file a certification, which includes a statement that the lobbyist has or will complete an ethics course.
- 2) Requires the appropriate legislative ethics committees of each house of the Legislature to conduct, at least semiannually, an orientation course on the relevant ethical issues and laws related to lobbying, in consultation with the FPPC.
- 3) Requires the course to include information on each house of the Legislature's policies against harassment, including sexual harassment, in connection with lobbying activities.

- 4) Requires the committees to impose fees on lobbyists for attending this course and requires the fees to be set at an amount to enable the lobbyist's participation to be funded from those fees to the fullest extent possible.
- 5) Requires lobbyists to attend an ethics training course at least once during each two-year legislative session as a condition of registering as a lobbyist.

This bill:

- 1) Repeals, 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.
- 2) Requires the 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.
- 3) Requires the 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.
- 4) Requires the training course to be available on-demand through an online platform, internet webpage, or application.
- 5) Permits 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.
- 6) Requires funds collected by the Assembly and Senate Legislative Ethics Committees from lobbyist training that are unused before January 1, 2029, to be transferred to the FPPC for purposes of developing the lobbyist training.

Background

Proposition 9, which appeared on the June 1974 ballot, created the California Political Reform Act (PRA) and established California's system of regulating lobbying activity, campaign finance, and conflicts of interest for public officials. Proposition 9 created the FPPC to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA. The PRA regulates lobbyists, including requiring lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers to register with the Secretary of State and to file periodic reports disclosing their activities.

SB 1738 (Roberti, Chapter 84, Statutes of 1990) also known as the “Ethics in Government Act of 1990,” enacted a comprehensive ethics reform package. Among other provisions, SB 1738 required legislators, designated employees of the Legislature, and lobbyists to take periodic ethics orientation courses, conducted by the legislative ethics committees in the Assembly and Senate.

Comments

Author’s Statement. Transferring lobbyist training to the FPPC ensures consistency, accountability, and public trust. As the state’s primary authority on political ethics and campaign finance, the FPPC is best equipped to provide accurate, standardized training aligned with current laws. Ultimately, this transfer promotes a more cohesive and transparent framework, one that not only supports compliance but also reinforces the ethical standards expected in California’s governmental processes.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1789 (Boerner) requires candidates and campaign treasurers beginning in 2029 to take an FPPC-provided training course on the requirements of the PRA.

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.

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

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

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).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Fair Political Practices Commission (source)
California Common Cause

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Writing in support, the FPPC, the bill's sponsor, states:

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.

California Common Cause notes that the bill "makes a practical and important update to California's ethics framework" and represents a thoughtful and well-calibrated improvement to California's ethics infrastructure.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Fariás, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Carrie Cornwell / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/14/26 16:33:56

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