

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Office of Senate Floor Analyses

(916) 651-4171

AB 2644

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2644

Author: Blanca Rubio (D)

Introduced: 2/20/26

Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/23/26

AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Gambling Control Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of any member of the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides, under the Gambling Control Act (Act), for the licensure and regulation of various legalized gambling activities and establishment by the Commission and the investigation and enforcement of those activities and establishments by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

- 2) Provides that the Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation of the Senate, and requires the Governor to designate one member to serve as chairperson.
- 3) Requires that the Commission collectively include individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, such as experience in finance or accounting, law with regulatory expertise, law enforcement or criminal investigation, business or government, and representation of the general public.
- 4) Authorizes the Governor to remove any member of the Commission for incompetence, neglect of duty, or corruption upon first giving the member a copy of the charges and an opportunity to be heard.
- 5) Requires the Governor to fill any vacancies on the Commission, subject to confirmation by the Senate, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy.
- 6) Provides that a person is ineligible for appointment to the Commission if, within two years prior to appointment, the person was employed by, retained by, or derived substantial income from, a gambling establishment.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of a member of the Commission.
- 2) Makes other technical, nonsubstantive changes.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "the bill aims to ensure the prompt enforcement of gambling laws by addressing vacancies and enabling the Commission to operate efficiently. When seats are unfilled, even a single absence or recusal can hinder decision-making, leaving the industry without effective oversight and causing delays. The bill seeks to strengthen enforcement, improve dispute resolution, and expedite licensing."

Gambling Control Act. The Act provides the Commission with jurisdiction over the operation of gambling establishments in California. The Act requires every owner, lessee, or employee of a gambling establishment to obtain and maintain a valid state gambling license. The Act assigns the Commission the responsibility of

assuring that gambling licenses are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is harmful to the public health, safety, or welfare.

The Act directs the Commission to issue licenses only to those persons of good character, honesty and integrity, whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state. The DOJ conducts background and field investigations and enforces the provisions of the Act in this regard.

California Gambling Control Commission. The Commission is composed of five members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the California State Senate. State law establishes several requirements to ensure professional expertise and political balance on the Commission. For example, no more than three of the five commissioners may belong to the same political party. The statute also requires that the Commission collectively include individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, such as experience in finance or accounting, law with regulatory expertise, law enforcement or criminal investigation, business or government, and representation of the general public.

Current law authorizes the Governor to remove a member of the Commission for incompetence, neglect of duty, or corruption upon first giving the member a copy of the charges and an opportunity to be heard. This bill simply requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of a member of the Commission.

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 1235 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2026) requires the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Committees on Governmental Organization of the removal of a member of the Commission. (Pending on the Assembly Floor)

AB 2173 (Wallis, 2026) requires the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2793 (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization, 2026) modifies existing law to require that one member of the Commission, among other criteria, to be an attorney with regulatory or gaming law experience. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

SB 864 (Padilla, 2025) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet website no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

SB 1154 (Alvarado-Gil, 2024) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Never Heard in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee)

SB 346 (Ochoa-Bogh, 2023) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Never Heard in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

SB 899 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2022) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Held on the Assembly Floor Inactive File)

SB 302 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2021) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

SB 869 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2020) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

SB 286 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2019) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

AB 1827 (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization, 2019) would have required the Commission to post a public record of each of its votes on its Internet Web site. (Died in the Senate Inactive File)

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26

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

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Flora, Wallis, Wilson

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/6/26 11:36:52

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