

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2655 (Valencia) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

Policy Committee: Elections Vote: 8 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill limits the use of campaign funds to pay security personnel to licensees of the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS) only.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to the Fair Political Practices Commission for education and enforcement related to this use of campaign funds.

COMMENTS:

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

[AB 2655] would require that campaign funds only be used to pay for personal security services if the security personnel are properly licensed by the [BSIS]. By ensuring security personnel meet California's existing training and licensing standards, personnel will be prepared to protect candidates, elected officials and their families from political violence.

2) **Security Expenses.** Due to escalating rhetoric and instances of violence and threats posing significant risks to individuals at all levels of government, AB 2041 (Bonta), Chapter 372, Statutes of 2024, broadened the types of security expenses that may be paid for with campaign funds and authorizes the use of campaign funds to protect not only a candidate and an elected officer, but also the immediate family or staff of the candidate or elected officer. AB 2041 also increased the expenditure limit by allowing a candidate or elected officer to use up to \$10,000 of campaign funds for security expenses. However, in response to concerns that the \$10,000 limit was insufficient in today's economic and political climate, AB 789 (Bonta), Chapter 621, Statutes of 2025, suspended the limit until January 1, 2029.

Eligible security expenses include the reasonable costs of installing and monitoring home or office electronic security, the reasonable costs of providing personal security, and any other tangible item related to security. This bill further limits eligible personal security expenses to payments to security personnel holding the appropriate BSIS license.

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