

Date of Hearing:

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND  
HOUSEHOLD IMPACT

José Luis Solache, Jr., Chair

AB 2745 (Fong) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

**SUBJECT:** International trade and investment: Global Partnership Advisory Body

**SUMMARY:** AB 2745 modernizes California’s international trade framework by establishing the Global Partnership Advisory Body by March 1, 2027, to advise on business priorities and performance metrics. The bill requires a 5-year implementation strategy, updated every five years, which must undergo at least one public legislative hearing. Notably, it increases the expenditure limit for trade activities from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and authorizes the establishment of regional trade hubs within California.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Recast these provisions to, among other things, expand the required program activities to include connecting global partners with California's innovation ecosystems and supporting cultural exchanges.
- 2) Requires the office to convene the Global Partnership Advisory Body, a statewide business partnership for international trade and investment, that would advise the director, as specified.
- 3) Requires the director to provide to the Legislature a 5-year strategy for the implementation of the international trade and investment program, developed in consultation with the advisory body, which would give input on goals, performance metrics, and implementation tactics.
- 4) Requires the strategy to be reviewed in at least one public hearing within 60 business days of submittal, as specified, and would make other conforming changes.
- 5) Authorizes GO-Biz to establish regional hubs within California to support international trade and investment if specified conditions are met and would make other conforming changes.
- 6) Increases the amount that the director can expend from the account as described above from \$200,000 to \$500,000 without regard to fiscal year and would expand the purposes for which the funds can be spent, thereby making an appropriation.
- 7) Makes other conforming changes relating to funds donated by a private donor, limiting designated donations to 25% of an office’s annual budget for an international trade and investment office.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Requires the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to develop and implement an International Trade and Investment Program, which among

other things, attracts employment-producing direct foreign investment, and states related findings and declarations of the Legislature.

- 2) Requires the Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to provide the Legislature, and update every 5 years, a strategy for international trade and investment, as specified.
- 3) Authorizes GO-Biz to establish an international trade and investment office outside the United States if specified conditions are met.
- 4) Establishes the Economic Development and Trade Promotion Account in the Special Deposit Fund within the State Treasury.
- 5) Authorizes the director to expend funds in the account, and any other state, federal, or private funds for international trade and investment offices or international trade shows or activities related to promoting international trade and investment events by entering into contracts to support international market development activities, including, but not limited to, trade shows, trade missions, promotional events, and seminars, as well as staffing support for those activities, in an amount not exceeding \$200,000, except as specified.
- 6) Authorizes GO-Biz to accept money, including, but not limited to, state, federal, and private sector funds, for the purposes of operating any international trade and investment office or international trade show or activity related to promoting international trade and investment events.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** AB 2745, introduced by Assembly Member Mike Fong, serves as a legislative intervention to revitalize California's standing in the global marketplace. Despite California's reputation as a global innovation leader, the state's export growth plummeted to 42nd in the nation between 2015 and 2024, signaling a significant decline in competitiveness. The author's intent is to resolve this stagnation by replacing the state's lapsed international trade roadmap, which expired in 2024, with a modernized, long-term strategy that accounts for contemporary challenges like geopolitical instability and supply chain disruptions. By formalizing the Global Partnership Advisory Body, the bill ensures that state policy is no longer developed in a vacuum but is instead informed by a diverse coalition of business, government, and workforce stakeholders.

Under the proposed law, the statutory framework of the International Trade and Investment Program is significantly expanded to move beyond simple export promotion. The bill authorizes the creation of regional hubs within California, allowing for a more decentralized and accessible approach to trade support that reaches local innovation ecosystems and small businesses. Furthermore, AB 2745 increases the fiscal flexibility of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) by raising the contracting expenditure limit from \$200,000 to \$500,000. This allows the state to more aggressively pursue high-impact trade missions and promotional events while maintaining strict transparency standards, such as capping private donor influence at 25% of an individual office's budget. This comprehensive update aims to

safeguard the one in every five California jobs supported by international trade, ensuring the state remains the nation's primary gateway to the global economy.

The proposed amendments:

1. Update the legislative intent with current trade statistics.
2. Clarify GO-Biz's authority to contract for all actions related to implementing the strategy.
3. Add detail to the existing regional trade assistance hub provisions.
4. Add the California Jobs First State Economic Blueprint to the list of existing state policy and strategy documents that GO-Biz may use to develop the international trade strategy.

**Author's Statement:** According to the author, "California is the fourth-largest economy in the world, and international trade is a key driver of its economic strength, supporting one in four jobs and powering thousands of small- and medium-sized businesses across the state. Existing law establishes a framework for promoting trade and investment through a five-year strategy; however, that strategy has lapsed, and the statutory framework has not kept pace with changes in the global economy."

AB 2745 updates and modernizes California's approach by strengthening the state's trade and investment strategy, improving coordination with private-sector partners, and removing barriers to more effective program implementation. These changes will help ensure California remains competitive in global markets and continues to support economic growth and job creation statewide."

#### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

##### **Support**

None on file.

##### **Opposition**

None on file.

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