

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Blanca Rubio, Chair

AB 2793 (Committee on Governmental Organization) – As Introduced March 17, 2026

SUBJECT: California Gambling Control Commission.

SUMMARY: This bill would modify the requirement that one member of the California Gambling Control Commission (CGCC or Commission) be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory law experience, to instead require that one member of the CGCC be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory or gaming law experience. **Specifically, this bill:**

- 1) Modifies the requirement that one member of the Commission be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory law experience, to instead require that one member of the Commission be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory or gaming law experience.
- 2) Makes various technical, non-substantive changes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides, under the Gambling Control Act (Act), for the licensure and regulation of various legalized gambling activities and establishments by the Commission and the investigation and enforcement of those activities and establishments by the Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau), under the California Department of Justice (DOJ).
- 2) Provides that the Commission is composed of five members who are appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate.
- 3) Prohibits the appointment of an individual to the Commission if, within two years prior to appointment, the person was employed by or derived substantial income from, any gambling establishment.
- 4) Prohibits a member of the Commission from engaging in any other business, vocation, or employment.
- 5) Requires one member of the Commission to be a certified public accountant or a person with experience in banking or finance, one member to be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory law experience, one member to have a background in law enforcement and criminal investigation, and one member to have a background in business with at least five years of business experience or five years of governmental experience, and one member be from the public.
- 6) Requires the Governor to fill any vacancies on the Commission, subject to confirmation, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Purpose of the bill. According to the author's office, "gaming laws are often complex, covering a range of issues such as licensing, taxation, consumer protection, responsible gambling, and anti-money laundering. An expert in gaming law can help navigate these complexities and ensure the laws and regulations are applied correctly."

The author points out that "one of the main roles of regulatory bodies is to protect consumers and ensure fair play. Someone with expertise in gaming law can help the CGCC further create policies that protect players from unfair practices and ensure their rights are respected. In addition, the gaming industry is evolving quickly with new technologies, such as sports betting, online gaming, e-sports, and mobile platforms. A gaming law expert would help the Commission stay ahead of these trends while making sure new practices are compliant with existing laws or can be properly regulated."

Background.

Current requirements. Current law requires the CGCC to be comprised of five members. One member is required to be from the public at large, the other four members are required to have the following career backgrounds:

- a) Certified public accountant or a person with experience in banking or finance.
- b) Attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory law experience.
- c) Background in law enforcement and criminal investigation.
- d) Background in business with at least five years of business experience or alternatively five years of governmental experience.

This bill would maintain that one member of the CGCC, among other qualifications, would still have to be an attorney. However, they could have experience in either regulatory or gaming law. Current law excludes gaming law experience, which not only limits the pool of qualified candidates but also prevents individuals with extensive knowledge of gaming laws and overall gambling from applying.

Gambling regulation/enforcement in California. The Act created a comprehensive scheme for statewide regulation of legal gambling under a bifurcated system of administration involving the Bureau of Gambling Control within the Attorney General's Office and the five-member Commission by the Governor. The CGCC is authorized to establish minimum regulatory standards for the gambling industry and to ensure that the state gambling licenses are not issued to or held by unsuitable or unqualified individuals. In addition, the CGCC acts as the regulatory body over Tribal casinos, pursuant to the CGCC's authority under the tribal-state gaming compacts.

Some of the CGCC's primary responsibilities related to cardrooms and third-party providers include: issuing work permits to employees in specific jurisdictions; taking reasonable actions to ensure that no ineligible, unqualified, or unsuitable individuals are associated with gaming activities; granting temporary/interim licenses, permits or approvals; and, adjudicating recommendations concerning license denials, revocations, or disciplinary actions. There are 80 cardrooms currently licensed by the CGCC.

The CGCC, pursuant to the Compacts, the Act, the Governor's Executive Order D-31-01 and Governor's Executive Order D-66-03, also has various fiduciary, regulatory and administrative responsibilities related to Tribal gaming and the distribution of revenues to eligible Indian Tribes. There are currently 65 Tribal casinos open and operated by 62 Tribes.

The Bureau monitors the conduct of gaming operations to ensure compliance with state gambling laws and conducts extensive background investigations of applicants seeking a state gambling license. The Bureau also conducts background checks for all key employees and state gambling license and vendor applications.

The Bureau inspects premises where gambling is conducted, examines gambling equipment, audits papers, books, and records of the gambling establishment, investigates suspected violations of gambling laws, and is ultimately responsible for enforcing compliance with all state laws pertaining to gambling.

Prior legislation. SB 1313 (Vidak) of 2018. This bill would have modified the membership of the CGCC by eliminating the requirement that Commission members have specified career backgrounds and prohibits Commission members from having any participation in, or pecuniary interest in, any gaming establishment. (Never Heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations)

SB 666 (Vidak) Chapter 245, Statutes of 2017. Prohibited a member of the CGCC, the executive director, the chief, and any employee of the CGCC or DOJ who works on or supervises gambling issues, for a period of two years after leaving office, from holding a direct or indirect interest in, hold employment with, represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of a gambling establishment, gambling enterprise, registrant, or licensee.

AB 1973 (Bermudez), Chapter 854, Statutes of 2006. Changed the eligibility requirements that one member of the Commission shall be "a certified public accountant with auditing experience" to "a certified public accountant or a person with experience in banking or finance."

SB 8 (Lockyer), Chapter 867, Statutes of 1997. Repealed the Gaming Regulation Act, and instead enacted the Act, which provided for DOJ to investigate and enforce controlled gambling in the state. It also established the CGCC to regulate gambling in this state and to issue, suspend, or revoke gambling licenses.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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