

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Office of Senate Floor Analyses

(916) 651-4171

AB 2793

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2793

Author: Committee on Governmental Organization

Introduced: 3/17/26

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

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

SUBJECT: California Gambling Control Commission

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill modifies the requirement that one member of the California Gambling Control Commission (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 a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory *or gaming law* experience.

ANALYSIS:

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 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 Internet 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) 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 a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory *or gaming law* experience.
- 2) Makes various technical, non-substantive changes.

Background

Author Statement. 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."

Furthermore, "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 Commission 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.”

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 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.

Prior/Related Legislation

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

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 2644 (Rubio, 2026) requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of any member of the Commission. (Pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee)

SB 864 (Padilla, 2025) 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 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)

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/23/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/23/26)

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
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