

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1230 (Valladares) – As Amended June 25, 2026

Policy Committee:	Public Safety	Vote:	9 - 0
	Natural Resources		12 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill increases the mandatory fines for second and subsequent convictions for illegal dumping of commercial quantities of waste, repeals the provision making each day that dumped waste remains a separate violation, and designates the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) as the lead state agency to serve as a resource for cities and counties addressing illegal dumping.

More specifically, this bill:

- 1) Increases the mandatory fine for a second conviction for dumping commercial quantities of waste from a range of \$3,000-\$6,000 to a range of \$4,500-\$8,000, and for a third or subsequent conviction from a range of \$6,000-\$10,000 to a range of \$8,000-\$10,000.
- 2) Increases the mandatory fine, where the convicted person owns or operates a business with more than 10 full-time employees, from a range of \$3,000-\$10,000 to a range of \$6,000-\$10,000 for a second conviction, and from a range of \$6,000-\$20,000 to a range of \$15,000-\$25,000 for a third or subsequent conviction.
- 3) Repeals the provision of existing law specifying that each day illegally dumped waste remains in place constitutes a separate violation.
- 4) Designates CalRecycle as the lead state agency to act as a resource for cities and counties to address illegal dumping, and requires CalRecycle to create an internet website with resources, which may include educational outreach materials, best practices, enforcement tools, and grant opportunities, to help cities and counties combat, prevent, and clean up illegal dumping.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Ongoing annual costs of \$155,000 for one staff position beginning in fiscal year 2027-28 (Solid Waste Disposal Site Cleanup Trust Fund). CalRecycle states that an additional resource is necessary in order to provide ongoing updates to the website, coordinate with local jurisdictions, and provide technical assistance, education, and outreach.

COMMENTS:

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

Illegal dumping is a persistent and costly problem affecting communities throughout California, particularly in rural, desert, and lower-income areas where enforcement resources are most limited... The non-commercial repeat offender fine ranges and commercial minimum thresholds have not been substantively updated since AB 1802 in 2004... By raising the penalty thresholds, this bill creates a stronger deterrent for chronic violators, including those dumping in commercial quantities.

- 2) **Background.** Illegal dumping is the unauthorized disposal of solid waste on public or private property, punishable as an infraction with escalating mandatory fines for non-commercial quantities, and as a misdemeanor with escalating mandatory fines for commercial quantities, defined as waste generated in the course of a trade or business or an amount of one cubic yard or more. According to CalRecycle, local governments spend tens of millions of dollars annually removing illegally dumped material. Los Angeles County's cleanup costs grew from \$2.3 million in fiscal year 2019-20 to \$6.8 million in fiscal year 2023-24, and rural areas including the Antelope Valley report more than 100 unauthorized dump sites, some of which have sparked fires costing taxpayers more than \$1.6 million to extinguish. The Assembly Public Safety Committee analysis notes research finding that increased penalty severity generally has a limited deterrent effect relative to the likelihood of apprehension, and that penalty assessments can substantially multiply base fines — a \$1,000 base fine can exceed \$4,100 with assessments.
- 3) **Support and Opposition.** Supporters, including Alameda County, the Rural County Representatives of California, and solid waste industry representatives, argue current penalties are too low to deter dumping when illegal disposal can cost a fraction of lawful disposal fees. Opponents, including ACLU California Action and Debt Free Justice California, argue increased fines do not deter, fall hardest on low-income individuals, and generate little net revenue, citing Oakland's collection of roughly 11% of \$1.3 million in illegal dumping fines issued from 2021 through 2024.
- 4) **Related Legislation.** AB 2310 (Carrillo), of this legislative session, increases fines and penalties for defined acts of illegal dumping, including elevating a fourth or subsequent offense to a misdemeanor, and is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 1218 (Arreguin), of this legislative session, authorizes a peace officer or code enforcement officer to immobilize a vehicle whose registered owner has five or more unpaid citations or failure-to-appear notices for illegal dumping, or two or more unpaid citations for illegal dumping in commercial quantities. SB 1218 is pending in this committee.
- 5) **Prior Legislation.** AB 2374 (Bauer-Kahan), Chapter 784, Statutes of 2022, increased maximum fines for commercial dumping by businesses with more than 10 employees.

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