

CONSENT

Bill No: SB 1235
Author: Committee on Governmental Organization
Introduced: 2/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Blakespear, Cervantes,
Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab,
Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: California Gambling Control Commission

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Committees on Governmental Organization of the removal of a member of the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission).

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 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.

This bill requires the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Committees on Governmental Organization of the removal of a member of the Commission.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "SB 1235 requires the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Governmental Organization Committees whenever a member of the Commission is removed. By establishing this notification requirement, the bill seeks to enhance transparency and strengthen legislative oversight of the Commission that regulates California's cardroom industry. The notification would help ensure that the Legislature remains informed about changes in the composition of the regulatory body responsible for licensing and overseeing cardrooms in the state."

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 would simply require the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Committees on Governmental Organization of the removal of a member of the Commission.

Related/Prior Legislation

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)

SB 899 (Governmental Organization, 2022) 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. (Held on the Assembly Floor Inactive File)

SB 302 (Governmental Organization, 2021) 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 869 (Governmental Organization, 2020) 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 286 (Governmental Organization, 2019) 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)

AB 1827 (Governmental Organization, 2019) would have required the Commission to post a public record of each of its votes on its Internet Web site. (Died in the Senate Inactive File)

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/13/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/13/26)

None received

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4/14/26 16:16:08

**** **END** ****