

Date of Hearing: June 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1236 (Committee on Governmental Organization) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Governmental Organization

Vote: 18 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill revises a provision of the State Records Management Act (Act) to specify that the head of a state agency must transfer a record deemed by the Secretary of State (SOS) to have archival value to the State Archives.

The state agency must transfer such a record once the record has reached the end of its administrative, legal, fiscal, or evidential value to the state agency.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Minor and absorbable costs to the SOS to update archive guidelines
- 2) Likely minor and absorbable costs across state agencies to update record transfer policies and practices.

**COMMENTS:**

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

This bill simply clarifies and strengthens language in the Act to improve guidance on how state agencies transfer records to the Archives. As the custodian of California's public archives, the Archives preserve all records from state agencies that the [SOS] deems to be of historical value. SB 1236 would grant the SOS with clear authority to establish the standards and methods of transferring historical records and would require state agencies to transfer such records once they reach the end of their retention period.

This bill is sponsored by SOS Shirley N. Weber.

- 2) **State Archives.** The Act governs how a state agency must establish, maintain, and dispose of official state records, with the goal of ensuring government records are organized and preserved for accountability, historical purposes, and public access. Once a state agency no longer needs a government record for administrative purposes, the record is either destroyed or transferred to the State Archives for long-term preservation if the record has "archival value," meaning the ongoing usefulness or significance of a record based on the administrative, legal, fiscal, evidential, or historical information the record contains, justifying the record's permanent preservation.

The SOS oversees the State Archives, approving record retention schedules and ensuring state agencies regularly review and transfer records with archival value. The Act states that a record deemed to have archival value must be transferred to the State Archives. This bill recasts this provision to instead specify that the head of a state agency must transfer a record the SOS deems to have archival value to the State Archives once the record has reached the end of its administrative, legal, fiscal, or evidential value to the state agency.

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