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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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## SB 1286 (Richardson) - California State Library: study: state pinniped

**Version:** April 15, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** April 27, 2026

**Policy Vote:** G.O. 14 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Janelle Miyashiro

**Bill Summary:** SB 1178 tasks the California State Library (CSL) with determining the best candidate for the official state pinniped.

**Fiscal Impact:** CSL reports total General Fund costs of approximately \$440,000. CSL's estimate includes:

- \$415,000 for three limited-term staff (Librarian, Research Specialist I, Analyst II) to develop the study, conduct outreach, and finalize the report. Specific activities include creating the candidate inclusion criteria, defining the study's evaluative framework (such as conservation status, cultural or indigenous significance, and public recognition of the symbols in question), and engaging in public outreach through web forms, regional listening sessions, and stakeholder panels.
- \$25,000 for IT and travel costs to conduct the study and support public engagement.

CSL notes that their fiscal estimate is in consideration of this bill and two similar bills pending in this committee. CSL presumes a coordinated framework with shared staffing, methodology, and public engagement infrastructure for all three studies. However, CSL's estimated costs would be applicable whether just one of these bills is enacted or all three.

**Background:** Existing law establishes the following, among other things, as official state emblems:

- "Eureka" as the official State Motto.
- "The Golden State" as the official State Nickname.
- The golden poppy as the official State Flower, and April 6th of each year as California Poppy Day.
- The California desert tortoise as the official state reptile, and the Pacific leatherback sea turtle as the official state marine reptile.
- The California red-legged frog as the official state amphibian.
- The California dog-face butterfly as the official State insect.
- The pallid bat as the official state bat.
- The banana slug as the official state slug.
- The Dungeness crab as the official state crustacean.

### Proposed Law:

- Requires the CSL to study, in consultation with the public, the best candidate for the official state pinniped.
- Requires the CSL to submit a report to the Legislature on its recommendations.

- Repeals the study on January 1, 2032.

**Related Legislation:** SB 1178 (Reyes, 2026) tasks the CSL with determining the best candidate for the official state wasp.

SB 1214 (Ochoa Bogh, 2026) tasks the CSL with determining the best candidate for the official state butterfly.

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