

Date of Hearing: June 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1306 (Cortese) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill exempts chemical mixtures containing 70% or less gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) by weight or volume from specified permitting, reporting, recordkeeping, and transaction-hold requirements of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (UCSA), aligning California's treatment of such mixtures with a federal exemption the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) adopted in 2010. The bill preserves existing controls on pure GBL.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Likely minor workload cost savings (General Fund/special fund) to DOJ from no longer processing permit applications, transaction reports, and related filings for the exempted GBL mixtures. Because existing law caps GBL permit and renewal fees at DOJ's processing costs, the corresponding reduction in fee revenue is largely offset by the reduced workload, producing no significant net fiscal effect. DOJ reports no fiscal impact.
- 2) Possible minor reduction in DOJ enforcement and county prosecution workload costs associated with the reporting and permitting of offenses that would no longer apply to exempted mixtures. Any such effect is unknown and likely negligible, given the apparently small universe of affected transactions (semiconductor-sector suppliers). DOJ reports no fiscal impact.

COMMENTS:

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

SB 1306 brings California into alignment with federal law by exempting chemical mixtures containing 70 percent or less GBL when regulatory requirements would apply solely due to the presence of GBL. This bill does not change existing requirements related to the purchase, storage, or use of pure GBL... Mirroring [the federal] policy on the state level will help reduce operational disruptions, support in-state R&D, and strengthen California's role as a global leader in high-technology innovation.

- 2) **Background.** GBL is an industrial solvent that can also be converted into GHB, a central nervous system depressant and controlled substance. California's UCSA regulates GBL at any concentration, subjecting manufacturers and distributors to DOJ permitting, transaction

reporting, recordkeeping, and 21-day transaction-hold requirements, violations of which are crimes. In 2010, the federal DEA exempted mixtures containing 70% or less GBL from comparable federal Controlled Substances Act requirements, having determined that such mixtures do not present a significant diversion risk. California did not adopt a parallel exemption. Proponents, led by the semiconductor industry, state that GBL is essential to photoresist formulations used in chip manufacturing, that there is no feasible substitute, and that the state's broader regulatory regime imposes operational delays unrelated to public safety. This bill adopts the federal 70% threshold for qualifying GBL mixtures while leaving controls on pure GBL intact.

Analysis Prepared by: Shiran Zohar / APPR. / (916) 319-2081