

SENATE THIRD READING

SB 155 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review)

As Amended September 8, 2025

Majority vote. Budget Bill Appropriation Takes Effect Immediately

SUMMARY

This bill provides statutory changes necessary to implement the Budget Act of 2025 related to economic development.

Major Provisions

This bill contains the following statutory changes necessary to implement the Budget Act of 2025. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Establishes the California Civic Media Program to be administered by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) for specified purposes, including enhancing the public good through supporting a robust and dynamic California press corps.
- 2) Requires the Director of GO-Biz to establish and appoint a nine-person advisory board, as specified, to provide recommendations to Go-Biz for the allocation of private moneys in the fund.
- 3) Creates the Civic Media Fund in the State Treasury of California to be administered by the GO-Biz.
 - a) Provides that all moneys deposited in the fund, including General Fund appropriations and private bequeaths, donations, gifts, or grants are continuously appropriated.
 - b) Requires public money to be accounted separately from private money in the fund.
 - c) Allows GO-Biz to accept contributions from private sources, including private for-profit and nonprofit organizations.
 - d) Directs GO-Biz to direct the expenditure of public money in the fund consistent with the purpose of the California Civic Media Program.
 - e) Prohibits more than 7.5 percent of the fund from being used for the administration of the California Civic Media Program.
 - f) Allows Go-Biz to enter into agreements with third parties for purposes of administering programs funded, in whole or in part, with public moneys allocated from the fund.
 - g) Requires Go-Biz to prioritize allocations to support local and community new organizations, when expending public moneys in the fund.
 - h) Prohibits, in any fiscal year, the total expenditure of public money from the fund exceeding the total aggregate expenditure of funds from private sources, as specified.
- 4) Appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund to the California Civic Media Fund.

COMMENTS

This bill contains statutory changes necessary to implement the 2025 Budget Act related to economic development.

According to the Author**Arguments in Support**

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation of \$10 million to the California Civic Media Fund.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 28-10-2**

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

ABS, ABST OR NV: Reyes, Stern

UPDATED

VERSION: September 8, 2025

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