

---

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

---

Bill No: SB 155  
Author: Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
Amended: 9/8/25  
Vote: 21- Urgency

---

SENATE FLOOR: 28-10, 3/20/25

AYES: 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

NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-20, 9/11/25 - See last page for vote

---

**SUBJECT:** Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development:  
California Civic Media Program

**SOURCE:** Author

---

**DIGEST:** This bill provides statutory changes necessary to implement the Budget Act of 2025 in relation to economic development. Specifically, the bill creates the California Civil Media Program, establishes a fund for it, and makes an ongoing annual General Fund contribution of \$10 million to that fund.

*Assembly Amendments* delete the Senate version of this bill and instead add the current language.

**ANALYSIS:**

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 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 for 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 Civil 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 news organizations, when expending public moneys in the fund.
  - h) Prohibits, in any fiscal year, the total expenditure of public money out of the fund from exceeding the total aggregate expenditure of funds from private sources, as specified.
- 4) Makes a continuous annual appropriation of \$10 million from the General Fund to the California Civic Media Fund.

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

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

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

Assembly Floor 60 20 0

**Ayes:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**Noes:** Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

**No Vote Recorded:**

Prepared by: Timothy Griffiths / B. & F.R. / (916) 651-4103  
9/12/25 10:21:31

\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*