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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**  
Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular

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<b>Bill No:</b>	SB 852	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	9/10/25
<b>Author:</b>	Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments		
<b>Version:</b>	8/27/25		
<b>Urgency:</b>	No	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
<b>Consultant:</b>	Carrie Cornwell		

**Subject:** Political Reform Act of 1974: Citizens Redistricting Commission

**DIGEST**

This bill makes noncontroversial changes to the Political Reform Act (PRA) on various matters and to the Voters FIRST Act on how a vacancy on the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) is filled.

**ANALYSIS**

Existing law:

- 1) Includes the PRA, which establishes California's campaign finance and disclosure laws for state and local campaigns, candidates, officeholders, and ballot measures and which created the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA.
- 2) Prohibits, through the PRA, a person from receiving, delivering, or attempting to deliver a campaign contribution in the State Capitol, any state office building, or any office for which the state pays the majority of the rent other than a legislative district office.
- 3) Allows the Legislature to amend the PRA provided that it does so in a manner that furthers the purposes of the PRA; by a two-thirds vote of each house and with the governor's signature; with the final version of the bill in print for at least eight days prior to the final floor vote in each house, or 12 days if the final set of amendments add PRA provisions; and after delivering the bill in its final form to the FPPC, which distributes it via email to the news media and to every person who has requested copies of such bills.
- 4) Requires Legislative Counsel to make available and expeditiously send emails alerting that a bill to amend the PRA has been introduced, referred to committee, voted upon, amended, or acted upon by the governor.
- 5) Requires a specified list of high ranking officials to electronically file statements of economic interest, also known as Form 700s, rather than on paper.

- 6) Creates the 14-member CRC and requires the members of the CRC to fill any CRC vacancy that occurs on or after December 31 of a year ending in the two within the 90 days after the vacancy occurs.

This bill:

- 1) Includes local government offices and legislative district offices among the locations where a person cannot receive nor deliver a campaign contribution.
- 2) Deletes the requirement for the FPPC to distribute copies of bills that amend the PRA.
- 3) Adds public officials who manage public investments to those who must file their Form 700s electronically.
- 4) Permits rather than requires the CRC to fill a vacancy in its membership that occurs after a year ending in a two.

### **COMMENTS**

Committee Bill. This bill is one of the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments' committee bills that makes changes to the Government Code. The bill contains three changes to the PRA at the request of the FPPC and one change to the governance of the CRC at the request of the CRC.

The FPPC provisions:

- Eliminate an obsolete requirement for the FPPC to send a notification to those who subscribe to inform them of bills that would amend the PRA, as Legislative Counsel does this now;
- Fix a drafting error in AB 1170 (Valencia), Chapter 211, Statutes of 2024, that omitted public officials who manage public investments from those who must file their Form 700s electronically; and
- Include local government offices and legislative district offices among the locations where a person cannot receive nor deliver a campaign contribution.

The CRC provision permits, rather than requires, the CRC to fill a vacancy that occurs on the CRC after it completes its redistricting work. The CRC fills vacancies itself and had to do so earlier this year, as last year a member of the 2021 CRC passed away. Under existing law, the CRC had to meet to fill that vacancy, even though it had finished its work in 2022.

When it met, the CRC also voted to request legislation to change the requirement to fill a vacancy to simple authority to do so, when it occurs after a year ending in two. The CRC continues in existence until the next decade's census when a new CRC is formed. The next CRC will form in 2031, so the 2021 CRC remains in existence until then.

Recent Amendments. SB 280 (Cervantes), Chapter 97, Statutes of 2025, would have included local government offices and legislative district offices among the locations where a person cannot receive nor deliver a campaign contribution. SB 280 was

amended to address a different topic. The most recent amendments add the original provisions of SB 280 to this bill.

**RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION**

SB 681 (Allen), Chapter 499, Statutes of 2023, required Legislative Counsel to make available email alerts advising that a bill to amend the PRA has been introduced, referred to committee, voted upon, amended, or acted upon by the governor.

AB 1170 (Valencia), Chapter 211, Statutes of 2024, required a specified list of public officials to file their Form 700s electronically

**PRIOR ACTION**

Assembly Floor:	78 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	13 - 0
Assembly Elections Committee:	7 - 0

**POSITIONS**

**Sponsor:** California Fair Political Practices Commission  
Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Support:** None received

**Oppose:** None received

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