

Date of Hearing: June 9, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Mia Bonta, Chair
SB 895 (Wiener) – As Amended May 14, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 29-9

SUBJECT: California Science and Health Research Bond Act.

SUMMARY: Enacts the California Science and Health Research Bond Act, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$12 billion pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law, to finance grants and loans to fund research and construct, operate, and maintain facilities for research. Establishes the California Foundation for Science and Health Research (Foundation) to award such grants and loans to public or private research companies, universities, institutes, and organizations in the fields of biomedical, disease prevention, wildfire prevention, climate, weather, ocean, and coastal and marine ecosystems, among others. Creates the California Foundation for Science and Health Research Fund (Fund) and requires the proceeds from the bonds to be deposited into the Fund. Creates the California Foundation for Science and Health Research Benefit Fund (Benefit Fund), to consist solely of private donations and available for the same purposes as the Fund. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes the Foundation within the Government Operations Agency, and specifies that the Foundation's role is to facilitate scientific research by awarding grants and making loans to public or private research companies, universities, institutes, and organizations for scientific research and development and to construct facilities for research and development, including, but not limited to, in the following fields:
 - a) Biomedical, including finding cures for high mortality diseases, including, but not limited to, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, heart disease, strokes, child and adult leukemia, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, and genetic and chronic diseases that affect children and infants;
 - b) Public health, including, but not limited to, detecting and responding to new and emerging health threats;
 - c) Disease prevention, including, but not limited to, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, heart disease, strokes, child and adult leukemia, infectious diseases, and HIV/AIDS;
 - d) Promoting healthy and safe behaviors, communities, and environment;
 - e) Wildfire prevention;
 - f) Behavioral health, including, but not limited to, addiction and substance use disorders;
 - g) Climate, including climate change and its impact on human health;
 - h) Weather;
 - i) Ocean;

- j) Coastal and marine ecosystems and resources;
 - k) Agriculture and water;
 - l) Emerging technologies; and,
 - m) Safety, efficacy, and security of drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, and cosmetics.
- 2) Requires the Secretary of Government Operations to oversee the process of appointing the director of the Foundation and to set the level of salaries, bonuses, and benefits for the director. Permits the Secretary to delegate to the director the hiring and determining of salaries, bonuses, and benefits of additional personnel. Requires the director and personnel to be responsible for implementing the strategic objectives of the Foundation for Science and Health Research Council (Council) established in 13) below, administering the grants and loans awarded by the Council, and all other duties as deemed necessary for the operation of the Foundation.
 - 3) Establishes the Fund and requires bond proceeds to be deposited in the Fund.
 - 4) Establishes the Benefit Fund to consist solely of private donations and be continuously appropriated for the same purposes as the Fund.
 - 5) Requires moneys in the Fund be used by the Foundation to award public and private grants to, and make loans to, public or private research companies, universities, institutes, and organizations for scientific research and development, including, but not limited to, the fields described above.
 - 6) Requires all research and development funded by the Fund to be conducted under established standards of open scientific exchange, peer review, and public oversight.
 - 7) Requires all grants or loans provided under the bill be awarded or made available to researchers or projects located within the state, except that funding for research collaboratives between California and out-of-state researchers is permitted.
 - 8) Requires all grants or loans to be awarded based on:
 - a) Consistency with research priorities established by the Council; and,
 - b) Scientific merit of the proposed research as determined by an open, competitive, scientific peer review process that ensures objectivity, consistency, and high quality.
 - 9) Requires the Foundation to prioritize funding research that replaces funding cuts by the federal government.
 - 10) Prohibits more than 3% of the moneys in the Fund be used for administrative costs, including salaries, legal and accounting fees, and all costs associated with the establishment and operation of the Foundation, including, but not limited to, office rent, overhead, information technology and data systems, office supplies and equipment, clerical services, utilities, telephone, travel, repairs and maintenance, program audits, and other general costs of operating the Foundation.

- 11) States the intent of the Legislature that the Foundation include provisions in the grants, loans, and contracts to recoup a portion of licensing and royalty fees from inventions and technologies produced as a result of bond-funded research, and that pharmaceuticals developed through this research are available to Californians at a discount. States that under certain circumstances, California will be able to publicly produce pharmaceuticals invented with bond-funded research via CalRx in order to sell them at a discount to Californians and for profit to other states.
- 12) Requires the Foundation to recommend to the Council standards to ensure that if the grantee or loan recipient purchases goods or services using funds authorized for, or made available to, the Foundation, the goods or services purchased are from California suppliers to the extent reasonably possible, in a good faith effort to achieve a goal of more than 50% of purchases from California suppliers.
- 13) Establishes the Council to develop the strategic objectives of the Foundation; actively participate in the overall management of the Foundation; and determine which research projects will be funded by the Fund based on research priorities and the technical merits of the proposals.
- 14) Makes the director and personnel of the Foundation responsible for implementing strategic objectives of the Council, administering grants and loans awarded by the Council, and all other duties as deemed necessary for the operation of the Foundation.
- 15) Requires the Council to consist of 11 to 13 members as follows:
 - a) Seven of the members appointed by the Secretary of Government Operations as follows:
 - i) Five members are scientists or hold backgrounds in science or research, including at least one member who is a graduate-level researcher and at least one member who is a postdoctoral scholar, with current or past research experience in the above-described fields;
 - ii) One member with a background in economics; and,
 - iii) One member is a patient advocate.
 - b) One member is a health care provider, appointed by the Senate Rules Committee;
 - c) One member is an advocate in climate or environmental fields, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;
 - d) One member is the chief executive officer of the California Council on Science and Technology, or their designee;
 - e) One member is a designee of the President of the University of California, if the president chooses to designate a representative, who shall be a scientist or hold a background in science or research;
 - f) One member is a designee of the Chancellor of the California State University, if the chancellor chooses to designate a representative, who shall be a scientist or hold a background in science or research; and,

- g) One member is the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, or his or her designee, who shall be a scientist or hold a background in science or research.
- 16) Authorizes individuals and organizations to submit nominations for membership to the Secretary of the Governmental Operations Agency and authorizes the Secretary to solicit nominations from relevant organizations and individuals. Exempts appointees from confirmation by the Senate.
- 17) Requires members of the Council to serve four-year terms, up to a maximum of two terms, and to serve without compensation. Permits members to receive reimbursement for travel and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties.
- 18) Requires, if a vacancy occurs within a term, the Secretary of Government Operations to appoint a replacement member within 45 days to serve the remainder of the term. Requires the Secretary, when a term expires, to appoint a member within 30 days. Requires a member to serve until their replacement is appointed.
- 19) Prohibits a grant or loan from being approved if there are more than six vacancies on the Council.
- 20) Provides that a majority of the membership of the council constitutes a quorum for the transaction of any business, for the performance of any duty, or for the exercise of any power of the board. Stipulates that, if a vacancy or recusal in the Council occurs, a majority of the remaining members constitutes a quorum.
- 21) Authorizes any member to participate in a decision to approve or award a grant or loan to a person or entity for the purpose of research involving either a disease from which the member or their immediate family member suffers or a disease in which the member has an interest as a representative of a disease advocacy organization, unless prohibited by any other law.
- 22) Authorizes the Council to approve or award a grant or loan in which a member of the Council is financially interested as long as the interested member recuses themselves from making, participating in making, or attempting to use their official position to include a decision on the grant or loan.
- 23) Authorizes the Council to establish one or more scientific peer review panels consisting of experts in the above-described fields for the purposes of reviewing and prioritizing proposals on the basis of scientific merit of the proposal, the potential benefits to the health and well-being of the population, natural resources, and environment of the state, and the demonstrated background, training, and expertise of the researchers and investigators to conduct the proposed work.
- 24) Prohibits an expert on a scientific review panel from having a collaborative or commercial relationship with any applicant of a proposal for funding that the expert is reviewing and prioritizing.

- 25) Requires the Foundation to issue an annual report, to be published on its website, that sets forth the Foundation's activities, grants awarded, loans made available, grants and loans in process, research accomplishments, and future program directions.
- 26) Requires the Foundation to annually commission an independent financial audit of its activities from a certified accounting firm, which shall be provided to the Controller, who shall review the audit and annually issue a public review of the report.
- 27) Requires the Controller to hold a public meeting with notice and a formal public comment period.
- 28) Requires the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene) to apply to all meetings of the Council and scientific peer review panels, except as provided.
- 29) Permits the Council and a scientific peer review panel to conduct closed sessions, as permitted by the Bagley-Keene when it meets to consider or discuss any of the following:
 - a) Matters involving information relating to patients or medical or scientific research subjects, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
 - b) Matters involving confidential intellectual property or a work product, whether patentable or not, including, but not limited to, any formula, plan, pattern, process, tool, mechanism, compound, procedure, production data, or compilation of information that is not patented, that is known only to certain individuals who are using it to fabricate, produce, or compound an article of trade or a service having commercial value, and that gives its user an opportunity to obtain a business advantage over competitors who do not know it or use it;
 - c) Matters involving scientific data, analyses, or other research products not yet formally published in academic literature;
 - d) Matters concerning the appointment, employment, performance, compensation, or dismissal of Foundation officers and employees. Requires action on compensation of the Foundation's officers and employees to only be taken in open session; and,
 - e) Matters believed to pose a security risk to the people of California.
- 30) Requires proceeds of the bonds issued and sold pursuant to this bill be deposited into the Fund and all moneys in the fund be continuously appropriated for purposes of this bill.
- 31) Requires money in the fund be made available for grants and loans to fund research and operate and maintain facilities for research, and administrative costs for the Foundation.
- 32) Requires repayment of principal and interest on any loans made by the Foundation be deposited in the Fund and used to make additional grants and loans or for paying administrative costs of outstanding bonds.
- 33) Creates the California Foundation for Science and Health Research Finance Committee (Committee) for the purpose of authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds and interim debt authorized by the Bond Act. Requires the committee to consist of:

- a) The Treasurer, who shall also serve as the chairperson;
 - b) The Controller;
 - c) The Director of Finance;
 - d) The Director of the Foundation; and,
 - e) Two members of the Council, chosen by the Secretary of Government Operations, or their designated representatives.
- 34) Requires the Committee to act independently of the Foundation and Council, but permits the Committee to request recommendations and relevant information so as to understand the financial needs of the Foundation to accomplish the strategic objectives and research priorities.
- 35) Requires the Committee, by resolution, to determine whether it is necessary or desirable to issue and sell bonds authorized, as specified.
- 36) Requires the Bond to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide election.
- 37) Permits the provisions of this bill to be amended so long as those amendments are consistent with and further the intent of this act by a statute that is passed by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the Legislature and signed by the Governor.
- 38) Makes Legislative findings and declarations on the role of the United States and California as leaders in scientific research.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the Government Operations Agency, which includes the Department of Technology, the Department of General Services, and the Office of Data and Innovation, among other departments, offices, and boards. [Government Code (GOV) § 12803.2]
- 2) Establishes the California Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act, which requires a grantee that receives funding, in whole or in part, in the form of a research grant from a state agency to provide for free public access to any publication of a peer-reviewed manuscript describing state-agency-funded knowledge, a state-agency-funded invention, or state-agency-funded technology. [GOV § 13989, *et seq.*]
- 3) Establishes, within the California Constitution, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to make grants and loans for stem cell research, for research facilities, and for other vital research opportunities to realize therapies, protocols, and/or medical procedures that will result in, as speedily as possible, the cure for, and/or substantial mitigation of, major diseases, injuries, and orphan diseases. [California Constitution, Article XXXV, § 2]
- 4) Requires every constitutional amendment, bond measure, or other legislative measure submitted to the people by the Legislature to appear on the ballot of the first statewide election occurring at least 131 days after the adoption of the proposal by the Legislature. Permits the Legislature to specify in the text of a measure that it appear the statewide ballot

of a different election, provided the specified election is at least 131 days after adoption of the measure by the Legislature. [Elections Code § 9040]

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) The total principal and interest costs to pay off the bonds would be approximately \$21.5 billion (\$12 billion in principal and \$9.5 billion in interest), with average annual debt service payments of \$715 million (General Fund), when all bonds are sold, and assuming a 30-year maturity and an interest rate of 4.25% (the rate secured by the State Treasurer for a new bond at a recent sale). If interest rates increase to 5% in the near future, annual debt service would be approximately \$781 million (General Fund) and total principal and interest costs over the repayment period would be approximately \$23.4 billion.
- 2) Unknown costs for the Government Operations Agency, ranging from \$10 million to \$20 million, to establish and implement the program. State resources would be needed to support the Foundation and the Council in a variety of capacities, manage grants and loans, issue reports, conduct bond compliance activities and bond accounting activities, develop the Foundation's strategic research and financial plans, and handle complex legal issues regarding intellectual property, patents, etc.
- 3) The measure would permit moneys from the proceeds of bonds to be used to pay for administrative costs of the Foundation. The Government Operations Agency notes that the agency would likely need a General Fund loan to start up the Foundation and the Council, and to hire staff prior to the issuance of bonds. The General Fund loan would be paid back from bond proceeds in the future.
- 4) One-time General Fund costs to the Secretary of State (SOS) in the range of \$738,000 to \$984,000 for printing and mailing costs to place the measure on the ballot in a statewide election. Actual costs may be higher or lower, depending on the length of required elements and the overall size of the ballot.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **PURPOSE OF THIS BILL.** According to the author, this bill will place on the November 2026 ballot a \$12 billion bond to fund health and science research. This bill will additionally establish the Foundation. The author notes that over the past year we have seen an incredible politicization of what was once considered bipartisan and vital research. With the federal government cutting billions of dollars to scientific research, California is placed in a dire situation. As the state that receives the most federal research dollars and a global leader in research and technology, the cuts risk California's health and economic wellbeing. The author argues that scientific research and innovation have driven California's economic success for decades. The breakthroughs produced by universities and scientific researchers have sparked new industries and powered the success of the state's biotech, medical, agricultural, and software industries from startups to global companies. For every dollar invested in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research there is a return of approximately \$2.50 in economic activity. The author concludes that without this investment from the state, Californians and the world will lose out on critical, life-saving discoveries that will treat diseases, uplift public health, and address climate change. For a healthy, prosperous future for all Californians, this bill is a critical step.

2) BACKGROUND.

- a) **Science and California's economy.** The Public Policy Institute of California reports that California's professional services and information sectors have grown substantially since 1998, due largely to technological innovation. As a result, the state outpaces the nation in technology-driven growth. Technology sectors contribute more than \$620 billion to the state economy, the largest output of any state. California is also home to the largest life sciences industry in the U.S. According to Biocom California's Life Science Economic Impact Report, California-produced goods account for roughly 10% of annual U.S. pharmaceutical exports and more than 15% of U.S. exports of medical equipment and supplies. In 2024, the state's life sciences industry employed approximately 450,000 workers across 17,220 companies and generated \$395.7 billion in total economic output.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, California accounts for nearly one-third of research and development (R&D) contributions to national gross domestic product (GDP), with research activities generating over \$226 billion annually within the state—about 6% of the state's GDP—and directly employing approximately 688,000 workers. A large share of R&D investment is directed to California universities: the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Higher Education Research and Development Survey found that California led the nation in higher education R&D spending, exceeding \$14 billion in fiscal year 2024. These investments support a robust innovation ecosystem, enabling California to maintain the largest share of U.S. patent applications—nearly 30% each year. California is a hotspot for emerging technology startups like those in the artificial intelligence industry: two-thirds of Forbes's 2025 list of the top 50 artificial intelligence companies are headquartered in California.

- b) **Impact of federal science funding cuts to California.** Federal investment fuels research and development in California. California leads the nation in funding from agencies like the NIH and National Science Foundation (NSF). California also captures a large share of funding from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Energy (DOE), given the concentration of national laboratories and technology industries in the state. In federal fiscal year 2024, California institutions received \$5.2 billion from the NIH and over \$1 billion from the NSF to support research at the state's universities, hospitals, and companies. A large share of this funding is funneled to the University of California (UC) system, which receives more NIH and NSF grants than any other institution in the nation. Across all federal agencies, the UCs were awarded \$5 billion for nearly 17,000 projects in 2024, accounting for more than half of all UC research awards.

The Trump Administration's fiscal year 2026 budget proposal included 40% to 55% cuts to scientific funding agencies like the NIH, NSF, and NASA. Additionally, some federal agencies announced policies to cap facilities and administrative (F&A) cost reimbursements, used by the grantee's institution to support scientific infrastructure, at 15%, a significant cut for many institutions. Although Congress rejected these budget cuts and incorporated language barring the 15% F&A cap in the 2026 budget, science research is still experiencing a challenging federal environment. According to a January 2026 article in *Nature*, 5,844 NIH grants and 1,996 NSF grants were cancelled or suspended for not aligning with the Trump Administration's priorities, affecting research on topics like vaccine uptake, infectious diseases, and people from underrepresented

groups. Federal agencies are also awarding fewer new grants; for example, the NIH awarded 21% fewer new research project grants in fiscal year 2025. In fiscal year 2026, *STAT* has reported that the number of competitive NIH awards issued to date is 74% lower than the average recorded by February over fiscal years 2021–2024, and the total value of those awards is 62% below the average at this point over those same years.

Disruptions to the stability and predictability of federal science funding have already impacted California research groups. According to the grant tracking website Grant Witness, 775 California grants were disrupted from the NIH and 467 from the NSF since January 2025. Although many have since been restored due to intervention by the courts, the state is experiencing an estimated loss of \$26 million from the NIH, \$46 million from the NSF, \$835 million from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and \$95 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Last July, the federal government froze nearly \$600 million in NIH and NSF funding to UC Los Angeles (UCLA) alone over claims of antisemitism on campus. Although these funds were eventually restored by court order, hundreds of research projects were halted for two months with no guarantee of being restored, disrupting experiments, wasting resources, and placing financial strain on graduate and postdoctoral researchers living paycheck to paycheck on federally funded stipends.

- c) **Further federal control of research.** *National Public Radio* (NPR) reports that the Trump administration is pursuing a bureaucratic rule change that could allow for greater political influence over billions of dollars in federal research grants. The new rule would have a broad impact on research fields, including housing and transportation. Health and science funding would be most significantly affected. The new proposed rule, published May 29, 2026, would both codify the administration's strategies to dismantle certain fields of study in the U.S. and lend it new authority to advance the President's policy priorities, according to NPR. Under the new rule, peer review would not be eliminated, but political appointees would be required to review grants before awards are made. In addition to giving the administration increased authority, the proposed rule officially bans research on diversity, equity and inclusion or gender as grant conditions, and places broad prohibition on international scientific collaborations.
- d) **CIRM.** California has previously used voter-approved bonds to fund scientific research and infrastructure through CIRM. Following the Bush Administration's 2001 Executive Order to ban the use of federal funds for embryonic stem cell research, Proposition 71 was placed on the 2004 ballot through the citizen's initiative process, funded largely by stem-cell research advocate Robert Klein II. Proposition 71 authorized \$3 billion in general obligation bonds to establish CIRM in order to fund stem cell research in California over a ten-year period. Proposition 71 also included language requiring that all grants and loan awards be subject to intellectual property agreements that balance the opportunity of the State to benefit from the patents, royalties, and licenses that result from the funded research, with the need to ensure that essential medical research is not unreasonably hindered by the intellectual property agreements. Proposition 71 required, at a minimum, that CIRM grantees share a fraction of the revenue they receive from licensing or self-commercializing an invention or technology that arises from research funded by CIRM pursuant to a specified formula. The Obama Administration rescinded the ban on federal stem cell research in 2009. In 2020, Robert Klein helped to fund another initiative, known as Proposition 14, to authorize an additional \$5.5 billion in state

general obligation bonds to fund research grants. Proposition 14, which passed with 51% of the vote, dedicated \$1.5 billion to research and therapy for Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, dementia, epilepsy, brain cancer, schizophrenia, autism, and other diseases and conditions of the brain, and otherwise expanded programs promoting stem cell and other medical research, therapy development and delivery, and student and physician training and fellowships.

According to CIRM's 2025 Annual Report, to date, these bonds have funded over 1,400 projects in 85 different disease areas, 116 clinical trials, and over 4,600 students and fellows. CIRM has also funded science and medical infrastructure like shared resources laboratories, alpha clinics, and a manufacturing network throughout the state to accelerate the delivery of cell and gene therapies. CIRM's investments in biotechnology have advanced over 50 startups with roots in CIRM projects, several of which have attracted high-profile investors to help commercialize these therapies. For example, Orchard Therapeutics has licensed a gene-modified cell therapy for severe combined immunodeficiency from UCLA and Gilead has acquired an antibody therapy for cancer from Stanford's spin-out company, Forty Seven. In 2015, CIRM shifted its funding model from an NIH-style grant system to a more hands-on, milestone-based award structure that links grantees with resources at each phase of a project and provides a predictable, stable funding schedule.

- e) **The California Immunology Research and Cures Initiative.** Signatures were submitted on May 4, 2026 for the California Immunology Research and Cures Initiative, aiming to appear on the ballot in November 2026. This proposition would authorize the issue and sale of \$8.4 billion dollars of general obligation bonds to fund a UC-affiliated immunology and immunotherapy research institute as well as individual immunology and immunotherapy research groups via grants. This proposition would be limited to immunology-related research, and only California-based public and nonprofit universities and medical research institutions would be eligible for funding. The proposition attempts to recuperate some of the investment for taxpayers by developing a technology licensing program, requiring a 10% cut of all revenues from the sale, licensing, or commercialization of intellectual property rights, and requiring any products developed with these funds be made available to Californians at a price at least 20% below the national average price. The proposition aims to bring state funding to the UCLA-affiliated California Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy (CIII), established in 2024 by several philanthropists including Dr. Gary K. Michelson, the proposition's sponsor. The state allocated \$500 million to the CIII in the 2022-2023 budget, to be appropriated over the next several years, but the institute only received \$200 million when the remaining \$300 million was canceled in the 2024-25 budget.

- 3) **SUPPORT.** The Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD) and United Auto Workers (UAW) 4811 are cosponsors of this bill and states that this funding will safeguard California's role as a global leader in innovation, an investment that will dramatically boost long term tax revenue, drive middle class job growth, and provide hope and healing to millions of Californians confronting deadly and debilitating diseases. UAPD and UAW 4811 argue that scientific research and innovation is the engine of California's economic prosperity and a lifeline to millions of families struggling with health challenges. Recent federal cuts threaten to bulldoze the nation's top scientific institutions, disrupting innovations critical to California's future. The NIH, the main funder of biomedical research, awarded

about \$35 billion in grants to research groups last year, including for the University of California. UAPD and UAW 4811 conclude that federal cuts and suspensions have threatened billions of dollars in scientific research funding, especially targeting California institutions like the UC and the California State University System.

UC is also a cosponsor of this bill and states that it is particularly important at this moment when UC is facing one of the greatest threats in its history. The University currently receives more than \$17 billion annually in federal support – for healthcare, research, and student financial aid. Federal funding for research totals \$5.7 billion each year. UC argues that the sustained loss of this funding would devastate the UC and cause enormous harm to their students and all Californians. It would mean tens of thousands of jobs lost and an exodus of talent as many of the UC’s world-renowned researchers would be forced to leave the state to pursue their work. UC contends that it is hard to conceive of a more damaging consequence for California. UC and the State face an extraordinary challenge.

Stanford University supports this bill stating that this investment will strengthen California’s position as a global leader in research and innovation, enhance the state's competitiveness, and accelerate scientific discoveries that can improve outcomes for millions of patients. Stanford University says it has been at the forefront of research innovation, making a profound impact not only within California but also across the U.S. and around the world. Stanford's commitment to fostering an environment of interdisciplinary collaboration has led to groundbreaking achievements across numerous fields, including technology, medicine, engineering, and the social sciences. Stanford alumni and faculty have created over 39,900 companies since the 1930s, creating over 5.4 million jobs and generating revenues of \$2.7 trillion annually. Stanford argues that university research, exemplified by the work conducted at Stanford and other California universities, has been integral to the partnership between academia and the U.S. government. Following World War II, the federal government realized the potential of harnessing universities' expertise and curiosity-driven culture, opting to fund university research as a strategic model. This government support has provided the foundation for the country’s scientific and innovation ecosystem, fostering advancements across diverse fields. By investing in university research, the government has enabled a continuous flow of discoveries and innovations that fuel economic growth, address societal challenges, and maintain the U.S. leadership in innovation.

4) RELATED LEGISLATION. SB 607 (Wiener), as amended September 12, 2025, was substantially similar to this bill. Just prior to this bill’s introduction, SB 607 was amended to address a different subject and is pending referral in the Assembly.

5) PREVIOUS LEGISLATION.

a) SB 829 (Weiner) of 2025 was similar to this bill but did not contain provisions related to bond issuance. SB 829 was held on the Senate Appropriations suspense file.

b) SB 867 (Allen) Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024, enacted the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, which authorized the issuance of \$10 billion in bonds to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity protection and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart and sustainable working lands, park creation, and clean air programs. The proposition (Prop 4) was approved by 60% of voters on the 2024 ballot.

6) POLICY COMMENTS.

- a) Recoupment.** The current language of this bill states the intent of the Legislature “to recoup a portion of licensing and royalty fees from inventions and technologies produced as a result of bond-funded research, and that pharmaceuticals developed through this research are available to Californians at a discount.” Should this bill pass and ultimately be approved by the voters, the Senate Appropriations Committee estimates annual costs to the General Fund of \$715 million to \$791 million to service the debt. That is a significant annual investment, which research indicates will provide some economic benefits to the state. This language should be strengthened to require the Foundation to include provisions in the grants, loans, and contracts around recoupment. The author is considering additional substantive language to the intent language around recoupment.
- b) Appointments to the Council.** Other advisory boards, commissions, and councils often stagger terms of their membership to avoid creating vacancies of all members at the same time and creating complete turnover of the body. Should this bill move forward, the author may wish to stagger the initial appointment lengths of some members to address this. The author may also wish to consider adding an appointee to the Council with expertise in community engaged research. According to Yale School of Medicine, community engaged research is a process that incorporates input from people who the research outcomes will impact and involves such people or groups as equal partners throughout the research process. This involvement may include co-designing research questions to solve problems, making decisions, influencing policies, and creating programs and interventions that affect their own lives. Community engagement often involves partnerships and coalitions that help mobilize resources and influence systems, change relationships among partners, and serve as catalysts for changing policies, programs, and practices.
- c) Public participation in planning.** Given the large public investment proposed by this bill, the author may wish to consider the opportunity for public participation in setting research priorities. While it may be challenging to open comment periods on each individual award, public engagement could inform research priorities by allowing a period of public comment on the strategic plans or directions of the Foundation.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

UAW Local 4811 (UNREG) (Co-Sponsor)
Union of American Physicians and Dentists (Co-Sponsor)
University of California (Co-Sponsor)
350 Bay Area Action
Alameda Labor Council
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
Alzheimer's Orange County
Alzheimer's San Diego
American Academy of Neurology
American Anthropological Association
American Brain Coalition

American Parkinson Disease Association
Association of California Caregiver Resource Centers
Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities (AICCU)
Blood Cancer United, Formerly the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
California Academy of Preventive Medicine
California Academy of Sciences
California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Faculty Association
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California Psychological Association
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
California Working Families Party
CAPS, UAW Local 1115
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Cleaneearth4kids.org
Council of University of California Faculty Associations
Greater Fresno Parkinson's Support Group
Humane World for Animals
Indivisible CA StateStrong
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
National Organization of Legal Services Workers
National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW)
Parkinson Association of Northern California
Parkinson Network of Mt. Diablo
Parkinson's Association of San Diego
Parkinson's Community Los Angeles
Parkinson's Foundation
Parkinson's Resource Organization
Point Blue Conservation Science
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Diego; County of
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG)
Solano County Democratic Central Committee
Stanford University
Teamsters California
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
UAW Local 230
UAW Local 509
UAW Local 872
UAW Local 2478
UAW Local 4123
UAW Local 4811
Union of Concerned Scientists

University of California Chicax Latinx Alumni Association
University of California Student Association

Opposition

None on file

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