

Date of Hearing: June 17, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Gail Pellerin, Chair

SB 1432 (Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments) – As Amended April 14, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: Political Reform Act of 1974.

SUMMARY: Makes various minor and clarifying changes to the Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA). Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Eliminates an existing provision of law that prohibits nonclerical staff at the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) from being included in the same civil service classification as positions in other state departments and agencies.
- 2) Clarifies that candidates for judicial office must file their statement of intention to be a candidate with the Secretary of State (SOS).
- 3) Increases the minimum font size, from 8-point to 10-point, of a notice that certain entities are required to include on an invitation to an event sent to a public official. That notice informs recipients that the official's attendance at the event constitutes acceptance of a reportable gift.
- 4) Makes a technical change.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Creates the FPPC, and makes it responsible for the impartial, effective administration and implementation of the PRA. (Government Code §§83100, 83111)
- 2) Prohibits the FPPC from including a nonclerical FPPC staff position in the same civil service class as any position of another department or agency. (Government Code §83109)
- 3) Requires the Department of Human Resources to administer the California Personnel Classification Plan. Provides that all positions shall be included in the same class as part of that plan if the positions have similar duties, responsibilities, required qualifications, and compensation schedules. (Government Code §19818.6)
- 4) Requires an individual, before becoming a candidate, including before receiving any campaign contributions, to file a statement of intention to become a candidate. Requires that statement of intention to be filed with the SOS in the case of candidates for elective state office, and with the official with which the candidate is required to file campaign disclosure statements in most other circumstances. (Government Code §85200)
- 5) Requires specified entities that file reports in connection with lobbying activities, when sending an event invitation to an elected state officer, candidate for elective state office, legislative official, or agency official, to include a notice in at least 8-point Roman boldface

type that reads:

“Attendance at this event by a public official will constitute acceptance of a reportable gift.”

(Government Code §86112.3)

- 6) Requires the SOS, in consultation with the FPPC, to develop and certify a new online filing and disclosure system for public use that provides public disclosure of campaign finance and lobbying information in a user-friendly, easily understandable format, as specified. This system commonly is referred to as the Cal-Access Replacement System (CARS).
(Government Code §84602(b))

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose of the Bill:** According to the author, “This bill is one of the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments’ committee bills. This bill contains changes requested by the FPPC and by committee staff.”
- 2) **Personnel Classification Plan:** The California Personnel Classification Plan is a framework that groups state civil service positions into classes. The allocation of a position to a class is based on the duties and responsibilities of the position. Positions are included in the same class if the positions are sufficiently similar so the duties and responsibilities can use the same descriptive title; the positions have the same requirements for education, experience, knowledge, and ability; the positions require the same tests of fitness; and the same schedule of compensation can be made to apply with equity.

When the PRA was adopted by voters in 1974, it included a provision that prohibited any of the FPPC’s nonclerical positions from being included in the same civil service class as positions in other state agencies and departments. While some FPPC staff positions require specialized knowledge that is not relevant to other state agencies or departments (e.g., many FPPC staff positions require knowledge of the PRA), the FPPC indicates that other staff positions may appropriately be standardized with positions at other agencies in the state classification system. This bill gives the FPPC the option to use statewide classifications that align with the duties and responsibilities of FPPC specific positions, to support a more efficient hiring process and cost-effective exam administration.

- 3) **Candidate Statement of Intention:** Before a person begins actively campaigning, including soliciting or receiving campaign contributions, the PRA requires that individual to file a statement of intention to be a candidate. This document, commonly known as FPPC Form 501, identifies the office the candidate seeks and establishes the relationship between the candidate and the filing officer responsible for receiving the candidate’s campaign disclosure reports.

Existing law, however, does not specify where judicial candidates must file their statements

of intention. Because judicial candidates file campaign disclosure reports with the SOS, this bill requires them to file their statements of intention with the SOS as well. This provision codifies existing practice.

- 4) **Cal-Access, CARS, Technical Corrections, and Suggested Amendments:** In 1999, the SOS launched an online filing and disclosure system for campaign and lobbying reports required under the PRA. That system—the California Automated Lobby Activity and Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Search System, or Cal-Access—has served as the state’s primary disclosure platform.

Now 27 years old, Cal-Access has experienced periodic crashes and lapses in public access. In response, the state is replacing it with a new system commonly referred to as CARS, which is scheduled for deployment toward the end of this year.

In advance of that launch, the Legislature has enacted several bills to support the implementation of CARS. Other enacted bills that made substantive changes to PRA disclosure requirements included delayed operative dates tied to CARS certification, ensuring the new system could be built to accommodate those changes. For example, SB 459 (Allen), Chapter 873, Statutes of 2022, requires lobbying disclosure reports to include additional information about items lobbied. SB 459 becomes operative one year after the SOS certifies CARS.

Last year, AB 808 (Addis), Chapter 278, Statutes of 2025, made various minor and technical changes to prepare for CARS and becomes operative upon SOS certification of the system. Because AB 808 amended a section added by SB 459—and AB 808 takes effect at certification while SB 459 takes effect one year later—AB 808 inadvertently accelerated the effective date of a provision of SB 459 by one year.

This bill makes a technical correction to partially resolve the inadvertent conflict created by AB 808 as it relates to SB 459’s implementation. Fully resolving the issue, however, requires additional amendments to the PRA, and those amendments must take effect before the SOS certifies CARS.

SB 1175 (Rubio), which is also being heard in this committee today, is an urgency bill that proposes changes to the state’s lobbying disclosure rules that are intended to go into effect upon certification of CARS. At the suggestion of committee staff, the author of that bill is accepting amendments to fully resolve the conflict created by AB 808. Accordingly, to avoid conflicts between SB 1175 and this bill, committee staff recommends an amendment to delete Section 4 of this bill.

- 5) **Political Reform Act of 1974:** California voters passed an initiative, Proposition 9, in 1974 that created the FPPC and codified significant restrictions and prohibitions on candidates, officeholders, and lobbyists. That initiative is commonly known as the PRA. Amendments to the PRA that are not submitted to the voters, such as those contained in this bill, must further the purposes of the initiative and require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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