

## **AB 1593: State Agency Fees & Fines Reporting**

### **SUMMARY OF BILL**

AB 1593 would require State Agencies that impose a monetary charge, including any fees, fines, penalties, assessments, licenses and other payments imposed by statute or regulation, to annually report on its website the revenue generated from those charges.

### **ISSUE**

Most state agencies in California impose fines, fees and other miscellaneous charges; however, the total revenue generated from those fees is not clearly or concisely disclosed in a consistent manner.

The state has a long-held precedence for improving government transparency and accountability. For example, section of Government Code, certain government programs (like Open FI\$Cal) as well as the Governor's Office have all pursued increased transparency and accountability in government spending and operations. However, there is still a fundamental lack of easily accessible, publicly available data on revenue generated from fees and fines from State Agencies.

According to Government Code sections 7920.000-7931.000, et seq, the CA Public Records Act states that "The public has a right to access documents, publications and information produced by government agencies". Consequently, the CA Public Records Act declares that "access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state."

Open FI\$Cal, California's financial transparency portal, "displays data from the Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal), to allow the public to monitor state spending and know where their tax dollars are going". Through proactive transparency, Open FI\$Cal releases data with the intention to promote civic engagement and government accountability. Additionally, the broad

accessibility of this data means it is published to be as understandable as possible to the general public.

Governor Newsom's office has also been leading accountability initiatives to track the investments made to build more homes and address homelessness. In his 2026 State of the State address, he identified that part of these efforts will mean "more oversight and enforcement" regarding institutional investors that are creating a monopolistic home buying environment.

### **SOLUTION**

The need for transparency in California in recent years has become increasingly apparent and this bill will pull back the curtain on government operations and practices.

By identifying the amount of money currently being collected by state agencies, we will ultimately be able to better determine the efficiency of how that money is subsequently utilized. This is the California people's money being collected – they deserve to know the revenue the agencies are generating.

### **SIMILAR LEGISLATION**

AB 2207 (Levine, 2004) – Statistical districts:  
San Fernando Valley  
AB 2543 (Eggman, 2018) – State Agencies:  
infrastructure project budget and  
schedule

### **SUPPORT**

California Association of Realtors

### **OPPOSITION**

None on File.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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