

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO 30

Introduced by Senator Jerry McNerney

September 30, 2025

The purpose of this bill is to introduce transparency into the Senate Bill 24.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 30, as introduced, McNerney. Annual Transparency and Reporting of Utility Political Spending.

The Senate Bill 24 is meant to make sure that utility companies like PG&E do not use the profits they make off of rate payers to fund any political campaigns.

This bill amends Senate Bill 24 to make it more transparent, as the bill is remarkable, but lacks the transparency needed to make sure the money is going to the correct destinations. Transparency requires a report annually on where the funds are going or plan on going to, and any violations require punishment.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and cited as Annual Transparency and Reporting of Utility Political Spending.

SEC. 2. Political Influence Reporting Requirements

- (a) Each electrical or gas corporation shall, on or before April 1 of each year, submit to the commission an annual report detailing all political influence expenditures made during the prior calendar year, including but not limited to:
 - (b) (1) Lobbying expenditures.
 - (2) Campaign contributions to candidates, committees, or ballot measures.
 - (3) Public communications intended to influence legislation, regulation, or public opinion.
 - (4) Contributions to third parties engaged in political activity on behalf of the utility.
- (c) The report shall clearly identify the funding source for each expenditure, distinguishing between ratepayer and shareholder funds.
- (d) Reports shall be published on the utility's website in a searchable, machine-readable format and submitted to the commission for publication on its public reporting platform.

SEC. 3. Political Code

(a) The commission shall review reports submitted under Section 3 for completeness and accuracy.

(b) The Public Advocate's Office may audit utility political expenditures and submit findings to the commission.

(c) A utility that fails to submit a timely report shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per violation.

(d) Knowingly submitting false or misleading information shall result in additional penalties and may require shareholder reimbursement to ratepayers.