



Bill Analysis

Author: Arambula

Sponsor:

Bill Number: AB 2360

Related Bills: See Legislative
History

Introduced: February 19, 2026

SUBJECT

State Agencies Plain Language Requirements

SUMMARY

This bill, under the Government Code (GOV), would require a state agency to write each document that it produces, either digitally or in print, in plain straightforward language as well as require state agencies to create, adopt, and post on its internet website a plain language policy. This bill would be effective and operative January 1, 2027.

RECOMMENDATION

No position—The three-member Franchise Tax Board has not formally voted or taken a position on this bill.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Not applicable.

REASON FOR THE BILL

The reason for the bill is to make it simpler to read state documents to account for common literacy levels, as well as for individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency.

ANALYSIS

This bill, under the GOV, would clarify the requirement for a state agency to write each document it produces in plain straightforward language applies to documents produced digitally or in print.

The bill would require that each state agency create, adopt, and post on its internet website a plain language policy that would identify how the state agency would incorporate or strengthen plain language writing and design principles and practices.

The bill would further require that the head of each state agency, using existing personnel and resources, perform the following:

1. Designate one or more senior officials within the state agency to oversee state agency implementation.
2. Communicate the requirements of this provision to the employees of the state agency.
3. Establish a process of overseeing the ongoing compliance of the state agency with this provision.
4. Using existing personnel resources, designate one or more state agency points of contact to receive and respond to public input, questions, comments, or suggestions on state agency implementation of this provision, or on any state agency document that is not easily readable in plain language.

The bill would define the following:

1. "Plain language" means language that is clear and easily understood by the intended audience, avoids unnecessary legal or technical jargon, and uses words, sentences, and structures that facilitate comprehension and accessibility for common literacy levels, including individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency.
2. "State agency" means each department, commission, office, or other administrative agency of state government.

Effective/Operative Date

This bill would be effective and operative January 1, 2027.

Federal/State Law

Federal Law

Federal law requires each executive agency, as defined in 5 U.S.C section 105, to use plain writing in every covered document of the agency that the agency issues or revises. This includes any document necessary for obtaining any federal benefit or service or filing taxes or providing information about any federal benefit or service and complying with federal requirements.

State Law

Current state law requires each department, commission, office or other administrative agency of state government to write each document in plain straightforward language and to avoid technical terms as much as possible and to use a coherent and easily readable style.

“State agency document” is defined as any contract, form, license, announcement, regulation, manual, memorandum, or any other written communication that is necessary to carry out the agency’s responsibilities under the law.

Additionally, state law requires every state agency subject to the California Administrative Procedures Act to draft regulations and digests for regulation notices in plain English, which is defined to mean written or displayed so that the meaning of regulations will be easily understood by those persons directly affected by them.

Implementation Considerations

None Noted.

Technical Considerations

None noted.

Policy Considerations

The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) has identified the following consideration and is available to work with the author’s office to resolve this and other considerations that may be identified.

This bill does not provide a deadline for when state agencies are required to create, adopt, and post on its internet website a plain language policy that would identify how the state agency would incorporate or strengthen plain language writing and design principles and practices. For clarity, the author may want to amend to indicate how much time state agencies have to implement all provisions of the bill.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

AB 733 (Tangipa, 2025/2026), under the GOV, would require each state agency to submit a list of any required report that has not been provided to the Legislature by April 1 of each year. AB 733 did not pass out of the policy committee by the constitutional deadline.

SB 259 (Seyarto, et al., Chapter 148, Statutes of 2023), under the GOV, requires state agencies to post on their websites any report that they submit on or after January 1, 2024, to a committee of the Legislature.

AB 437 (Jackson, 2023/2024) would have required each state agency to consider the use of more inclusive practices to advance equity in the agency’s mission, policies and programs. AB 437 did not pass out of the Senate by the constitutional deadline.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

None noted.

OTHER STATES' INFORMATION

None noted.

FISCAL IMPACT

FTB's costs to implement this bill have yet to be determined. As the bill moves through the legislative process, costs will be determined.

ECONOMIC IMPACT*Revenue Estimate*

This bill, as introduced on February 19, 2026, would not impact the calculation of state income or franchise tax revenue.

This analysis does not account for changes in employment, personal income, or gross state product that could result from this bill or for the net final payment method of accrual.

LEGAL IMPACT

None noted.

EQUITY IMPACT

None noted.

APPOINTMENTS

None noted.

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization Committee Report, dated April 7, 2026

Proponents

California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
Autism Speaks

Opponents

None on file.

ARGUMENTS

The bill is supported by SCDD which writes:

“Californians deserve clear, accessible communication from their government. Yet many residents struggle to understand state forms, instructions, and program information. This lack of clarity limits access to essential services, reduces public trust, and creates inequitable barriers – particularly for individuals with cognitive disabilities, limited literacy, or those who speak a language other than English. Plain language is not merely communications improvement—it is a matter of equity and access. When government information is clear, more Californians can participate fully in programs designed to support them. It also reduces administrative costs, increases compliance, and strengthens public trust.”

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

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