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Support SB 759: Election Law - Disclosure of Contributions by Persons Doing Public Business - Enforcement

Background:

- “Doing public business” means making or having a single contract with a single governmental entity involving cumulative consideration of at least \$200,000.
- Persons doing public business are required to file statements with the State Board of Election (SBE) regarding their campaign contributions

The Issue:

- SBE does not have the same abilities regarding late filings of disclosures or election law violations by persons doing public business as they do for other election law violations
- No civil penalties exist for violations of persons doing public business with the state
- The maximum criminal penalty for violating requirements on persons doing public business is \$1,000 or 1 year of imprisonment - violations of campaign finance requirements can result in a \$25,000 fine or 1 year of imprisonment
- Business who late file doing public business disclosures are not able to seek relief from a late fee by showing late cause

What SB 759 Does:

- Permits SBE or a court to waive a fee imposed for a late filing by a person doing public business after a finding of just cause
- Creates a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for violations by a person doing public business without criminal intent
- Increases the penalty for knowing and willful violations by a person doing public business to fine of \$25,000 fine or 1 year of imprisonment