

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 08/03/2026

POSITION: Oppose

SPONSOR: The American Economic Liberties Project et al.

BILL NUMBER: AB 1776

AUTHOR: Aguiar-Curry, Cecilia

RELATED BILLS:

BILL SUMMARY: Cartwright Act: violations.

This bill amends the Cartwright Act to apply antitrust prohibitions on restraining trade or engaging in monopolistic conduct to individual firms.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Justice (DOJ) indicates this bill may create unknown but potentially significant costs for the Unfair Competition Law Fund and Attorney General Antitrust Account to investigate and prosecute violators of single-firm antitrust law. Single-firm monopolization cases are particularly challenging and expensive, often requiring collaboration with state and federal agencies. To the extent DOJ initiates monopolization cases under Cartwright in state court, this litigation would be completed without the support of the states or federal government and the costs may be significant. A major unknown cost driver is the number of cases the DOJ would litigate under this new authority. Consequently, it is unclear if the Unfair Competition Law Fund and the Antitrust Account would be able to absorb these costs.

At the time of this analysis, the Trial Courts had not provided a fiscal estimate of the implementation costs. However, because this bill allows anti-trust action to be carried out against single firms, it may significantly increase the amount of anti-trust cases filed. To the extent that this bill adds to trial courts' caseload, court backlogs may increase and could create pressure on the General Fund to handle the increased caseload. However, we note that the courts do not typically receive funding on a workload basis; therefore, unless this particular caseload becomes significant and can be documented, it is likely to be absorbed.

Any requests for additional resources will be evaluated as part of the annual budget development process.

COMMENTS

Finance is opposed to this bill because it results in significant new state costs not included in the 2026 Budget Act.

Existing law, the Cartright Act, promotes and protects free and fair competition, and prohibits trusts from restraining trade or engaging in monopolistic conduct.

This bill applies the Cartright Act's prohibitions on monopolistic behavior to individual companies.

According to the author, this bill increases market competition by strengthening antitrust law.

Analyst/Principal (242) Romine, Jessie	Date	Program Budget Manager Jarvis, Amy	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

Aguilar-Curry, Cecilia

08/03/2026

AB 1776

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2026-2027	FC	2027-2028	FC	2028-2029	
0820/Justice	SO	No	C		0 C		0 C		0 0001
0250/Jud Branch	SO	No	C		0 C		0 C		0 0001