


REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: April 2, 2026

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 26-0002-S15
Assignment No: 26-03-0205

SUBJECT: AB 1954 (Ward) Municipal Golf Courses

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Rodriguez – McOsker) to include in the City’s 2025-2026 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1954 (Ward), which would prohibit an operator of a third-party golf reservation service platform from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for a golf course owned by a local public agency without a written authorization from the golf course operator.

SUMMARY

On March 4, 2026, the Resolution (Rodriguez – McOsker) was introduced in support for AB 1954 (Ward), which would prohibit an operator of a third-party golf reservation service platform from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for a golf course owned by a local public agency without a written authorization from the golf course operator. The Resolution states that municipally owned golf courses are intentionally priced below market rates to ensure broad access to residents, seniors, athletes, and local clubs. The Resolution further states that tee time brokers have become a significant issue throughout the state by booking tee times all at once and reselling and brokering them at inflated prices on a secondary market impeding equitable public access.

Therefore, the Resolution recommends support for AB 1954 (Ward) which would prohibit third-party golf reservation service platforms from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for a municipally owned golf courses without a written authorization from the golf course operator.

BACKGROUND

California is home to over 200 golf courses that are municipally owned by a mix of cities, counties, charter cities, and the state. The City’s Department of Recreation and Parks operates one of the largest municipal golf systems in the nation, serving more than one million golfers annually. As part of the publicly owned park system, these courses are intentionally priced below market rates to ensure broad access to residents, seniors, school athletes, local clubs and civic organizations. However, tee time brokers have become an issue throughout the state by booking tee times all at once and reselling and brokering them at inflated prices on a secondary market impeding equitable public access. Currently, there is no clear legal framework that effectively prohibits or addresses this activity, leaving public agencies with limited enforcement tools. In 2025, the United States Attorney's Office indicted two Los Angeles based tee time brokers for failing to report \$1.1M in income, \$700,000 of which was made from the resale of tee times at 17 Southern California municipal golf courses over the course of two years.

AB 1954 (Ward) seeks to restrict third-party golf reservation platforms from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for a municipally owned golf courses without a written authorization from the golf course operator. The bill would also provide that a violation of these provisions constitutes an unlawful business act or practice under the Unfair Competition Law. AB 1954 would give the state's cities, counties, charter cities, and the state itself a tool in the form of a civil remedy to restrain third-party brokering that is not performed by consent of the parties.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is in support of AB 1954.

BILL STATUS – AB 1954

02/13/26 Introduced

03/16/26 Referred to Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism and Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection

03/18/26 Re-referred to Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism



Xochitl Ramirez

Analyst

SMT:xr

Attachment: 1. Resolution

BA

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, California is home to over 200 golf courses that are municipally owned by a mix of cities, counties, charter cities, and the state; and

WHEREAS, as part of publicly owned park systems, these courses are intentionally priced below market rates to ensure broad access to residents, seniors, school athletes, local clubs and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, tee time brokers have become a significant issue throughout the state by booking tee times all at once and reselling and brokering them at inflated prices on a secondary market impeding equitable public access; and

WHEREAS, last year, the US Attorney's Office announced the indictment of two Los Angeles based tee time brokers for failing to report \$1.1 million in income, \$700,000 of which was made from the resale of tee times at 17 Southern California golf courses; and

WHEREAS, AB 1954 (Ward) would prohibit an operator of a third-party golf reservation service platform from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for a golf course owned by a local public agency without a written authorization from the golf course operator; and

WHEREAS, the bill would also provide that a violation of these provisions constitutes an unlawful business act or practice under the Unfair Competition Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1954 (Ward), which would prohibit an operator of a third-party golf reservation service platform from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for a golf course owned by a local public agency without a written authorization from the golf course operator.

PRESENTED BY: Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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