



Government affairs update for the week of June 21, 2026

REALTOR® Voices Stop Transfer Tax Bill

REALTORS® secured a major advocacy victory this week by picking up the phone.

In just over 24 hours, more than 12,000 REALTORS® responded to a California Association of REALTORS® (C.A.R.) Red Alert to voice their opposition of AB 736, a bill that would have created a new state-authorized cap on local transfer taxes. C.A.R. opposed the bill because it could have encouraged more cities to increase the transfer tax rate on home sales. [According to C.A.R.](#), the bill will not move forward.

While REALTORS were responding to the Red Alert, C.A.R. advocates in Sacramento helped lawmakers reach an agreement that removes two competing tax measures from the November ballot while allowing voters to consider a constitutional amendment restoring the two-thirds voter approval requirement for future local special taxes.

How this impacts your business: Transfer taxes increase the cost of selling a home and can discourage property owners from moving. Stopping AB 736 helps protect housing affordability, preserves transaction opportunities and demonstrates the impact REALTORS® have when they speak up.

DRE Warning About Phone Scams

The California Department of Real Estate (DRE) is warning consumers and real estate licensees about phone scams involving people pretending to work for DRE.

[According to the DRE](#), scammers may call consumers or real estate professionals about a real estate transaction, a commission dispute, or a pending disciplinary action. They may try to create urgency or fear, ask to communicate by text only, or demand money by wire transfer, cash or other payment methods.

Be cautious if you receive an unsolicited calls related to transactions, commissions or licensing issues. If someone claims to be from DRE, verify the information directly with DRE before responding or sending any money. And, the DRE says its initial contact about an official matter will be via a letter on DRE letterhead, and not via phone, text or email.

How this impacts your business: Scams involving real estate transactions can create confusion for clients and expose consumers and licensees to financial loss. REALTORS® can help protect their clients and their own licenses by slowing down, asking questions and verifying any suspicious communication before taking action.

If you have any questions about Bay East advocacy activities or any government-related real estate issues you want Bay East to research, contact [David Stark](#), Bay East Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer.



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