
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

SB 702 (Limón) - Gubernatorial appointments: report

Version: April 21, 2021

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 10, 2021

Policy Vote: G.O. 11 - 0, JUD. 10 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: SB 702 requires the Governor to convene a working group to make recommendations on ensuring the state's boards and commission reflect California's diversity and submit a report to the Legislature on the working group's recommendations.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown, potentially significant costs for the Governor's office to convene a working group, provide recommendations as prescribed, and to compile and post information on specified demographic information on its internet website.

Background: Current law specifies that it is the policy of the State of California that the composition of state boards and commissions broadly reflect the general public, including ethnic minorities and women. However, the current composition of state boards and commissions is unknown.

Proposed Law:

- Requires the Governor, before March 1, 2022, to convene a working group to discuss and make recommendations on the most effective way to ensure the state's leadership on boards and commission reflects California's diversity.
- Requires the working group to include, but not be limited to, Governor appointed representatives from the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls; nonprofits focused on empowering communities through training and advocacy; and ethnic studies, women's studies, or other similar departments of the University of California and California State University systems.
- Requires the President pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the Assembly to also jointly designate one representative to serve on the working group.
- Requires the working group to hold its first meeting by April 1, 2022 and determine a schedule of at least five additional meetings to be completed by November 1, 2022.
- Requires the working group to evaluate and provide recommendations on improved ways to market the availability of the appointment process to state boards and commissions; identify and discuss potential barriers for applicants and ways to alleviate these barriers; and plans to increase the diversity of the state's leadership on boards and commissions.
- Requires the working group to complete and deliver its recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2022.

- Terminates the working group on January 1, 2023.
- Requires the Governor, by August 1, 2022 and annually thereafter, to create and deliver to the Legislature and publish on its internet website, a report on all of the following:
 - Demographic information of each appointment by the Governor from July 1 of the prior year to June 30 of the reporting year, inclusive.
 - Aggregate demographic information for appointment applicants that were not appointed in any period from July 1 of the prior year to June 30 of the reporting year, inclusive.
 - Demographic information of gubernatorial appointees on each state board and commission as of June 30 of the reporting year.
 - A list of every state board and commission, the stated objective of every board and commission, meetings held by each state board and commission in the prior year, and any openings in the membership of each board and commission.
- Specifies that demographic information on applicants be included in the report to the extent that the individual agrees to disclose such information.
- Defines “demographic information” to mean the ethnicity, gender, disability status, veteran status, and sexual orientation of the appointed individual.
- States legislative findings and declarations.

Staff Comments: To the extent that additional workload associated with evaluating the appointment process, identifying potential barriers for applicants, recommending ways to alleviate those barriers, and compiling and posting specified information are not absorbable within existing resources, there may be additional costs to the Governor’s office. Based on resource needs for working and advisory groups in comparable size and responsibilities, the working group proposed in this bill may require at least one personnel worth of additional workload to staff the group, which may total into the low-to mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars.

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