
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1584 (Jackson) - State Air Resources Board: Office of Civil Rights

Version: June 9, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: E.Q. 5 - 2, JUD. 11 - 2

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would establish an Office of Civil Rights within the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and define the responsibilities and duties thereof.

Fiscal Impact:

- CARB estimates ongoing costs of \$1.3 million annually (Air Pollution Control Fund [APCF]) to establish and manage an Office of Civil Rights.

Background: Existing law establishes CARB, charging it with controlling motor vehicle emissions and coordinating, encouraging, and reviewing air quality efforts across all levels of government (Health and Safety Code §39500), and requires CARB to adopt standards, rules, and regulations consistent with the state's goal of providing a decent home and suitable living environment for every Californian (HSC §39601). Existing law also establishes the Department of Human Resources to oversee the state's civil service system and ensure that applicants and employees in state service are treated equitably without regard to political affiliation, race, color, sex, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability, political or religious opinions, or other non-job-related factors (Government Code §18500).

According to CARB, its efforts to uphold civil rights laws and protections are relevant to all its work, including its work focused on addressing the disproportionate impact of air pollution on communities of color. CARB is currently updating its Civil Rights Policy and Discrimination Complaints Process. This could be reasonably expected to increase the number of civil rights complaints received by the department.

Proposed Law: This bill would:

1. Establish the Office of Civil Rights within CARB and task the Office with doing the following:
 1. Providing training on civil rights obligations to board staff, grantees, contractors, and subrecipients;
 2. Developing a civil rights evaluation tool to assist recipients in understanding and being able to meet their civil rights requirements;
 3. Ensuring language access and culturally appropriate outreach in all public engagement processes, as specified; and
2. Require CARB to post on its website an annual summary that would include, but not be limited to, the following information:

1. A summary of civil rights complaints received by the Office of Civil Rights;
 2. A description of compliance and enforcement efforts by the Office relating to civil rights; and
 3. An overview of public outreach and engagement activities carried out by the Office.
3. Provide that the bill's implementation would be contingent on an appropriation.

Related Legislation:

AB 715 (Addis, Chapter 428, Statutes of 2025) among other things, established the Office of Civil Rights under the Government Operations Agency with specified duties.

Staff Comments: CARB notes that establishment of an Office of Civil Rights could improve its oversight and ability to enforce civil rights complaints. This bill would be consistent with CARB's Blueprint 2.0 goal to provide transparent compliance with non-discrimination laws.

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