

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2529 (Johnson) – As Amended April 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 11 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires that a claim presented under the Government Claims Act be signed by the claimant or by some person on the claimant's behalf declaring that, upon information and belief, the contents of the claim are true and correct.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No known state costs. To the extent the declaration requirement deters fraudulent or frivolous claims against public entities, there could be minor savings to state and local governments from reduced litigation and settlement costs, but any such savings are speculative.

COMMENTS:

According to the author, public entities increasingly face claims that are used to generate settlement leverage regardless of merit, diverting limited public resources from essential services. This bill requires a basic attestation of truth at the claim presentation stage to discourage knowingly false or exaggerated claims.

Under existing law, a person who wants to sue a public entity for damages must first present a written claim to the entity describing the injury and damages sought. Public agencies are required to provide forms for this purpose, and most state forms already require claimants to sign under penalty of perjury or with a declaration of truth. However, courts have held that claimants are not required to use agency forms — they may submit a written claim that includes the statutorily required elements and a signature, with no declaration as to the truth of the contents. This bill closes that gap by requiring all claims, whether submitted on agency forms or not, to include a declaration that the contents are true and correct upon the claimant's information and belief.

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