
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2529
Author: Johnson (R)
Amended: 4/9/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26

AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Civil claims: public entities and employees: declaration

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires that a claim against a public entity or public employee must include a declaration that, upon information and belief, the contents of the claim are true and correct.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Governs, under the Government Claims Act, the tort liability and immunity of, and claims and actions against, public entities, officers, and employees. (Government (Gov.) Code §§ 815 et seq.)
- 2) Prohibits an aggrieved person from filing a civil lawsuit against a public entity for damages unless the person satisfies the claim presentation requirements. Some types of claims against public entities are not subject to the claim presentation requirements. (Gov. Code § 945.4.)
- 3) Provides that a claim relating to a cause of action for death or for injury to person or to personal property or growing crops shall be presented as provided

in Government Code sections 915 et seq., not later than six months after the accrual of the cause of action. (Gov. Code § 911.2.)

- 4) Requires that a claim against a public entity or public employee be signed by the claimant or by some person on the claimant's behalf and include specified information. (Gov. Code § 910, § 910.2.)

This bill requires a claim against a public entity or public employee to include a declaration that, upon information and belief, the contents of the claim are true and correct.

Comments

According to the author:

AB 2529 strengthens the Government Claims Act process and protects taxpayer dollars from frivolous claims by requiring all employment claims against a public entity to include a declaration that the contents of the claim are true and correct. Coming from a background in local government, I believe that this additional layer of protection is incredibly important in ensuring that all legitimate claims can move forward while those that lack merit are filtered out under this declaration.

The Government Claims Act gives public entities the opportunity to address claims for civil damages before the claimant files a civil lawsuit. The Act specifies information that the claimant must present to the public entity. The claim against a public entity must be signed by the claimant or by some person on the claimant's behalf and include specified information. The public entity then has 45 days to decide whether to grant or deny the claim, unless the claimant and public entity both agree to extend the decision timeframe. The claimant is permitted to file a lawsuit in civil court after they receive the public entity decision. If claim presentation requirements are not met, the claimant's law-suit can be dismissed. This bill requires the claim against the public entity to include a declaration that, upon information and belief, the contents of the claim are true and correct.

The author and supporters believe that the updated declaration will lead to less litigation and less costly litigation.

The California Contract Cities Association writes the following in support:

Under existing law, claims filed against a public entity or its employees must be signed by the claimant. AB 2529 would add a new layer of

accountability to this process by requiring that claimants sign a formal declaration affirming that the

information contained in their claim is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. This added safeguard will discourage the presentation of frivolous or otherwise bad-faith claims, and ultimately help to reduce cities' litigation costs. As written, AB 2529 is a commonsense measure that will improve claim screening, protect limited local resources, and strengthen cities' legal position.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/4/26)

California Contract Cities Association

City of Beverly Hills

City of Carson

City of Cerritos

City of Glendora

City of Hesperia

City of Hidden Hills

City of Ojai

City of Palmdale

City of Pico Rivera

City of Port Hueneme

City of Rancho Palos Verdes

City of Rosemead

City of Tulare

County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/4/26)

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

California Conference of Amalgamated Transit Union

California Conference of Machinists

Teamsters California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 5/28/26

AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff

Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Boerner, Lee, Ortega, Ward

NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Bennett, Bryan, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Harabedian, Jackson, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Patel, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Solache

Prepared by: Margie Estrada / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/5/26 15:12:48

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