

Date of Hearing: May 7, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 284 (Alanis) – As Amended May 1, 2025

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 7 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill adds to the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board (Board) the president of the California District Attorneys Association or their designee, and allows a Board member to include a dissenting opinion in the board's annual report.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No significant state costs. A Board member is not entitled to compensation or a per diem.

COMMENTS:

In 2015, the Legislature enacted the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (Act) (AB 953 (Weber), Chapter 466, Statutes of 2015). The Act expressly prohibits racial and identity profiling by law enforcement and requires law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to report data about vehicle and pedestrian stops, including demographic information about each person stopped by LEAs. The Department of Justice compiles the data into an annual report. The Act also established the Board. The Board is required to work with LEAs to review and analyze their policies and practices, conduct research, hold public meetings, and issue an annual report that includes policy recommendations for eliminating racial and identity profiling. The Board is made up of up to 19 members, including the Attorney General, the president of the California Public Defenders Association, the president of the California Police Chiefs Association, a university professor who specializes in policing and equity, up to two clergy members, and others.

This bill adds an additional member to the Board: the president of the California District Attorneys Association. The bill also permits a board member to include a dissenting opinion in the board's annual report. According to the bill's author:

Confronting and eliminating bias in policing is a shared goal among communities and law enforcement agencies alike. How to achieve that is the challenge...While well intended, in practice, the collection and accuracy of the data [under the Act] has been called into question by many in the law enforcement community. AB 284 tries to address unresolved concerns around RIPA in hopes of supporting the goals of providing fair and accurate data and that lawmakers can use in furtherance of combatting racial bias in policing state-wide.

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