

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 847 (Sharp-Collins)

As Amended September 9, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Grants access to a sheriff oversight board or commission and any office of inspector general, as specified, to peace officer personnel records.

**Senate Amendments**

Double-joints this bill with AB 1178 (Pacheco) and AB 1388 (Bryan) to avoid chaptering issues.

**COMMENTS**

*As passed by the Assembly:* This bill granted access to a sheriff oversight board or commission and any office of inspector general, as specified, to peace officer personnel records.

## Major Provisions

- 1) Granted a sheriff oversight board or commission and inspector general to have access to peace and custodial officer personnel records required for the performance of the board's or inspector general's oversight duties.
- 2) Authorized a sheriff oversight board to conduct closed session pursuant to the Brown Act, as specified, to review confidential records required for the performance of the board's or inspector general's oversight duties, if those sessions comply with applicable confidentiality laws.
- 3) Required an oversight board and inspector general to maintain the confidentiality of peace officer records, consistent with existing law requiring such records be confidential.

**According to the Author**

"The Legislature provided counties to establish law enforcement oversight commissions either by a vote of county supervisors or the voters in that county. It further provided these commissions with subpoena power so they can require individuals to appear. Despite this, it appears that in some counties the commissions are not receiving the information necessary to carry out their function. AB 847 provides access to records needed to effectively provide oversight of law enforcement bodies as asked for by counties."

**Arguments in Support**

According to the *County of Los Angeles Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission*, "By way of background, I have served for over eight years as a Commissioner on the Civilian Oversight Commission that oversees the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the largest Sheriff's Department in the nation, both in terms of personnel and budget, and a department that runs the largest jail in the nation. I am currently the Chair of the Civilian Oversight Commission.

"There is a substantial need for effective and meaningful civilian oversight of the Sheriff's Department that will be greatly helped by the passage of AB 847. Indeed, I am concerned that

without AB 847, we will not be able to provide the kind of effective civilian oversight that the public in Los Angeles County expects and deserves."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

According to the *Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs*: "Under current law, the California Public Records Act appropriately balances transparency with the need to protect sensitive records. Personnel records of peace officers and custodial officers are generally confidential, with exceptions including the records related to sustained misconduct, as well as limited exceptions for investigations conducted by a grand jury, a district attorney's office, or the Attorney General's office. These exemptions are carefully tailored to ensure accountability while safeguarding officers' privacy rights. Expanding access to these records for civilian oversight boards, which may lack the rigorous procedural safeguards of these established entities, risks undermining this balance."

"First, the bill could jeopardize the privacy rights of peace officers and custodial officers. Personnel records often contain highly sensitive personal information, including medical histories, family details, and other private matters unrelated to professional conduct. Allowing broader access to these records increases the risk of unauthorized disclosures or misuse, potentially exposing officers and their families to harassment, retaliation, or harm.

"Second, unlike grand juries or prosecutorial offices, which operate under strict legal and procedural guidelines, civilian oversight boards vary widely in structure, expertise, and accountability. Without clear standards to ensure impartiality and confidentiality, this expansion could lead to inconsistent application, biased investigations, or the politicization of officer discipline processes."

"Finally, the proposed change could erode trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Officers may feel unfairly targeted or demoralized if their private records are subject to scrutiny without sufficient safeguards. This could hinder recruitment and retention efforts at a time when law enforcement agencies already face significant staffing challenges, ultimately impacting public safety."

### **FISCAL COMMENTS**

Unknown. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

### **VOTES:**

#### **ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 5-0-4**

**YES:** Schultz, Mark González, Bonta, Harabedian, Sharp-Collins

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Alanis, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos

#### **ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-15-11**

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Connolly, DeMaio, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**NO:** Alanis, Ávila Fariás, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Arambula, Bains, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Ta

## **UPDATED**

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CONSULTANT: Kimberly Horiuchi / PUB. S. / (916) 319-3744

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