
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 935 (Ransom) - State agencies: complaints: demographic data

Version: July 3, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: JUD. 11 - 1, ED. 5 - 1

Mandate: No

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary: AB 935 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) and the Civil Rights Department (CRD) to collect and publish information about complaints of prohibited discrimination, and to provide that information to the yet-to-be-established Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery (Bureau) for publication on a public dashboard to be created by the Bureau.

Fiscal Impact:

- CRD anticipates requesting \$650,000 in FY 2026-2027 and ongoing for its data collection, data management, and reporting obligations under this bill. This includes resources for data analyst positions, and technology related to data cleaning and software licenses, among other costs. In addition, CRD anticipates an increase in inquiries to its Contact Center and an increase in Public Records Act requests. If AB 935 results in a significant increase in inquiries and requests to CRD, then CRD would require additional resources and program staff to handle the increased workload.
- Costs (General Fund) to CDE, possibly in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars annually for data collection, data management, and reporting to the Bureau.
- Costs (General Fund) of an unknown but likely significant amount to the Bureau to receive data reported from CRD and CDE and create and publish the required dashboards. Costs to the Bureau, which does not yet exist, may include staffing, IT infrastructure or contracting, and overhead expenses.

Background: The Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans issued its final report in 2023, titled “The California Reparations Report.” This bill implements one of the report’s recommendations relative to state agency transparency.

Proposed Law:

- Beginning July 1, 2026, upon receipt of a complaint that alleges unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying received by CDE the Superintendent shall collect all of the following information:
 - The self-identified protected group of the complainant, if voluntarily provided;

- A description of the complaint received;
 - Any action taken by the department in response to the complaint and the timeline for that action; and,
 - The disposition of the complaint.
- Requires, beginning July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, CDE to create and post on its website a summary report of the information collected and provide a copy of the report to the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery. The summary report shall not contain any personally identifying information about any individual, and the information in the report shall be sufficiently deidentified to prevent the identification of the individuals involved in the complaint.
- Requires the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery to create and publish a dashboard that allows the public to view the data in the report. The dashboard described in this subdivision shall not include any personally identifying information about any individual, and the information in the report shall be sufficiently deidentified to prevent the identification of the individuals involved in a complaint.
- Requires, for a complaint received by CRD, CRD to collect all of the following information:
 - Demographic data relative to ethnicity, race, gender, age, and other critical demographic information from the individual submitting the complaint collected in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws;
 - A description of the complaint received; and,
 - Any action taken by the department in response to the complaint received and the timeline for that action, including whether the department filed a lawsuit in the complainant's name or issued a right-to-sue letter.
- Requires CRD to create and post on its website a summary report of the information collected provide a copy of the report to the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery. The summary report shall not contain any personally identifying information about any individual, and the information in the report shall be sufficiently deidentified to prevent the identification of the individuals involved in the complaint.
- Provides that CRD shall transmit the data to the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery, and the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery shall create and publish a dashboard that allows the public to view the data in the report. The data transmitted by CRD shall not contain any personally identifying information about any individual, and the information in the report shall be sufficiently deidentified to prevent the identification of the individuals involved in a complaint.

- Requires the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery to create and publish dashboards that allow the public to view the collected data. The dashboard shall not include any personally identifying information about any individual, and the information in the report shall be sufficiently deidentified to prevent the identification of the individuals involved in a complaint.

Related Legislation: SB 518 (Weber Pierson, 2025) establishes the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery with the Department of Justice. SB 518 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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