

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 935 (Ransom)

As Amended September 5, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires the California Civil Rights Department to collect, publish, and transmit demographic information, as specified.

**Major Provisions**

- 1) Requires the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) to collect, for every complaint received, the following information:
  - a) Demographic data relative to ethnicity, race, gender, age, and other critical demographic information from the complainant, *to the extent that it is reported in the complaint.*
  - b) A description of the complaint received.
  - c) Any action taken by CRD in response to the complaint and the timeline for that action.
  - d) The disposition of the complaint.
- 2) Requires, *commencing July 1, 2027*, CRD to publish *a summary report* of the data described in 1) on their internet website, except for personal identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential. *Specifies that the summary report of data collected must be published no later than October 1 of each year.*
- 3) Specifies that any publication or transmission of data described above shall be done in manner that complies with state and federal law.
- 4) Makes constitutionally required legislative findings for a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies.

**Senate Amendments**

- 1) Delete provisions that require reporting to the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery as proposed to be established by SB 518.
- 2) Specify the dates for publishing of collected data.
- 3) *Specify that CRD only needs to collect demographic data to the extent that it is reported in the complaint.*

**COMMENTS**

AB 3121 (Weber) Chapter 319, Statutes of 2020 created the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans (Task Force). The legislation required the Task Force to gather and synthesize the documentary evidence of slavery and its ongoing legacy in California, develop ways to educate Californians about its findings, and recommend appropriate remedies in a report to the Legislature. The more than 1000-page Task Force report meticulously

details both the past and continuing legacy of California laws and policy designed to prevent African Americans in California from enjoying the full benefits of their personhood and citizenship. (California Reparations Report (Report), "Executive Summary," p. 48.) The first 13 chapters of the Report identify a breathtaking range of laws and policies that have harmed African Americans over the course of our history: enslavement, racial terror, political disfranchisement, housing segregation, separate and unequal education, employment discrimination, and an unjust legal system that has led to unconscionable rates of incarceration for Black Californians. The concluding parts of the Report recommend specific policies for California, starting with a formal apology and acknowledgment of wrongs done by the state. Because "apologies alone are inadequate reparations for victims," the Report made concrete policy recommendations designed to provide true reparations for the documented harms. As the Report stresses on more than one occasion, the harms inflicted "have not been incidental or accidental," but were often the intentional result of "an all-encompassing web of discriminatory laws, regulations, and policies enacted by government." Therefore, addressing these wrongs will require changes in existing laws and the disruption of institutionalized patterns of racism. Before institutionalized patterns of racism can be disrupted, however, they must first be identified and documented.

*This bill* would contribute to that effort by requiring California's Civil Rights Department, upon receiving a complaint, to gather data relevant to the complainant's race, gender, age, and "other critical demographic information." According to the author, the data collected will help identify trends in civil rights violations, which in turn will help the state develop more effective, targeted, and data-driven policies. Presumably "other critical demographic information" refers to the other "protected characteristics" listed in FEHA and the civil rights statutes enforced by CRD.

The bill would also require CRD to post this information *annually*, in an anonymized form, on its website. Thus, while the posted data will allow the public to identify aggregate numbers and patterns, it will keep any personal identifying information confidential.

### **According to the Author**

According to the author, AB 935 will foster greater transparency within California's state agencies. "By requiring the collection and publication of anonymized demographic data," the author contends, "this bill ensures that the voices of historically marginalized communities, including descendants of American slavery, are heard and represented. This data-driven approach allows California's Civil Rights Department . . . to identify trends in civil rights violations, and allows policymakers to craft more targeted, effective data-based solutions to support historically marginalized communities."

### **Arguments in Support**

*The California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP writes that "AB 935 takes a critical step toward strengthening California's civil rights infrastructure by requiring the Civil Rights Department and the California Department of Education to collect and publish anonymized demographic data—including race, ethnicity, and gender—from individuals submitting complaints. In addition to this demographic data, the bill mandates the disclosure of complaint descriptions, actions taken, and outcomes, all while protecting the personal privacy of individuals involved."*

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file

## FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the fiscal impact is as follows:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

## VOTES:

### ASM JUDICIARY: 9-1-2

**YES:** Kalra, Wicks, Bryan, Connolly, Harabedian, Pacheco, Papan, Stefani, Zbur

**NO:** Tangipa

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Dixon, Sanchez

### ASM EDUCATION: 7-0-2

**YES:** Muratsuchi, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Hoover, Castillo

### ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-2-2

**YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

**NO:** Dixon, Tangipa

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez, Ta

### ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-10-7

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

**NO:** Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Castillo, Chen, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Lackey, Ta

## UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Tom Clark / JUD. / (916) 319-2334

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