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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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## SB 1387 (Stern) - State agencies: collection and reporting of demographic data: Jewish identity

**Version:** February 20, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 4, 2026

**Policy Vote:** G.O. 15 - 0, JUD. 13 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Janelle Miyashiro

**Bill Summary:** SB 1387 requires a state agency that collects demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use a separate collection category and tabulation for Jewish ancestry or ethnicity, as specified, and requires these state agencies to include the demographic data in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins of Californians by the state agency published after January 1, 2027.

**Fiscal Impact:** Unknown, potentially significant costs for state agencies to collect additional demographic data. Actual costs will vary depending on agencies' existing IT system infrastructure, their data collection methods, the flexibility for systems to incorporate a new collection category, and the scope of data collected (General Fund and various special funds). Fiscal impacts may range from absorbable to millions of dollars per entity.

**Background:** Existing law requires a state agency, board, or commission that directly or by contract collects demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use separate collection categories and tabulations for the following:

- Each major Asian group, including, but not limited to, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Laotian, and Cambodian.
- Each major Pacific Islander group, including, but not limited to, Hawaiian, Guamanian, and Samoan.
- Each major Middle Eastern group, including, but not limited to, Afghan, Bahraini, Emirati, Iranian, Iraqi, Israeli, Jordanian, Kuwaiti, Lebanese, Omani, Palestinian, Qatari, Saudi Arabian, Syrian, Turkish, and Yemeni.
- Each major North African group, including, but not limited to, Algerian, Djiboutian, Egyptian, Libyan, Mauritanian, Moroccan, Somali, Sudanese, and Tunisian.
- Each major transnational Middle Eastern and North African group, including, but not limited to, Amazigh or Berber, Armenian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Circassian, and Kurdish.

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, both the Department of Industrial Relations and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing are required to collect and tabulate data for the following:

- Additional major Asian groups, including, but not limited to, Bangladeshi, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, and Thai.
- Additional major Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander.

Current law also requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to collect voluntary self-identification information regarding the race or ethnic origin of individuals admitted, in custody, or released and paroled. This includes specified races and ethnic origins. Based on this information, CDCR prepares and publishes monthly demographic reports reflecting the categories used for voluntary self-identification.

Finally, under current law, the Employment Development Department (EDD) is required, in administering disability compensation programs, to collect demographic information for individuals claiming disability benefits or family temporary disability insurance benefits. This includes data on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity data, as prescribed. Existing law also requires EDD to develop and make available online a public-facing dashboard that publishes demographic data pertaining to program participation by individuals and is updated on at least a quarterly basis.

### **Proposed Law:**

- Requires a state agency that directly or by contract collects demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use a separate collection category and tabulation for Jewish ancestry or ethnicity in any provided form that offers respondents the option of selecting one or more ethnic or racial designations.
- Requires the state agency, except for personal identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential, to do both of the following with the data:
  - Include the data in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins of Californians by the state agency that is published on or after January 1, 2027.
  - Make the aggregated data available to the public in accordance with state and federal law, including, but not limited to, by publishing the data on its internet website.
- Defines ethnicity to include Jewish identity for purposes of existing law that declares that is the policy of the state to afford all persons in public schools, regardless of specified characteristics, including race or ethnicity, equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state.
- Includes Jewish among those specified races and ethnic origins for self-identification for which CDCR is required to collect voluntary self-identification information pertaining to race or ethnic origin of people admitted, in custody, and released and paroled, including, but not limited to, specified races and ethnic origins.
- Requires the EDD to collect data on Jewish ancestry or ethnicity as part of a current requirement that requires EDD to collect demographic data for individuals who claim disability benefits or family temporary disability insurance benefits, including race and ethnicity data and sexual orientation and gender identity data, as prescribed.

**Related Legislation:** AB 91 (Harabedian, Chapter 357, Statutes of 2025) requires a state or local agency that directly or by contract collects demographic data as to the

ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use separate collection categories and tabulations for major Middle Eastern or North African groups, as specified.

**Staff Comments:** Costs for impacted agencies will vary, with one of the most significant factors being the constraints of their existing IT infrastructure. For comparison:

- EDD estimates one-time costs in the millions of dollars for IT changes to its Integrated Claims Management System, and ongoing annual costs of approximately \$100,000 for maintenance (Disability Insurance Fund and General Fund). EDD notes that the January 1, 2027, operational date is not feasible and may impact the timeline and scope of EDDNext, the department's ongoing IT modernization effort.
- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) estimates total costs of \$732,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-28 and \$883,000 in FY 2028-29 (General Fund and federal funds). This estimate includes one-time IT system implementation costs spread over two FYs and three limited-term staff (3.0 IT Specialist I) for data collection, integration, and reporting. DHCS notes the estimated timeline for completion for work in the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS), California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Systems (CalHEERS), and BenefitsCal would be 12 months after the final policy is published.
- The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) estimates total one-time costs of \$713,000 in FY 2026-27 (General Fund). This includes \$300,000 for IT design updates and \$413,000 for two limited-term staff (1.0 Research Scientist B and 1.0 IT Specialist I) to develop and support an additional collection category across its data programs. HCAI notes there may be additional but unknown ongoing costs associated with navigating a new reporting structure that diverges from federal requirements.
- The Office of Emergency Services and Department of Justice do not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.

While resource requirements will vary by agency, if even a few state entities share similar IT needs as EDD, DHCS, and HCAI, then the bill's aggregate fiscal impact will reach into the millions to tens of millions of dollars.

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