

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1387 (Stern) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

Policy Committee:	Judiciary	Vote:	12 - 0
	Privacy and Consumer Protection		15 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill 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 form that offers respondents the option of selecting one or more ethnic or racial designations.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires a state agency, except for personal identifying information, which is deemed confidential, to include the collected data in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins of Californians published on or after January 1, 2027, and to make the aggregated data available to the public, including by publishing the data on the agency's internet website.
- 2) Adds “Jewish” to the race and ethnic origin categories the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) collects through voluntary self-identification and publishes through the Offender Data Points dashboard.
- 3) Requires the Employment Development Department (EDD) to collect data on Jewish ancestry or ethnicity as part of existing demographic data collection for disability insurance and paid family leave claimants.
- 4) Provides, for purposes of the Education Code’s equal-rights provisions, that “ethnicity” is inclusive of Jewish identity, and makes the constitutional findings required for limiting public access to personal identifying information.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Costs of an unknown amount, likely significant and in the aggregate reaching millions of dollars, across state agencies that collect demographic data on the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians (General Fund, Disability Insurance Fund, various special funds) to add a separate Jewish collection category and tabulation to forms, information technology systems, and published demographic reports. Four agencies have reported estimates totaling approximately \$3.4 million in one-time costs and approximately \$120,000 in ongoing annual costs, as described below:
 - a) One-time costs of \$2.4 million and ongoing costs of approximately \$100,000 annually to the Employment Development Department (EDD) for changes to the current system design (Disability Insurance Fund, General Fund). According to EDD, the January 1,

2027 date is operationally infeasible and may affect the timeline and scope of the department's ongoing modernization effort, EDDNext.

- b) One-time costs of \$300,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) for information technology design updates and system administration, and start-up costs of approximately \$413,000 in 2026-27 for two limited-term positions — one research scientist and one information technology specialist — to develop standards and support system development and data infrastructure updates (General Fund). HCAI anticipates additional costs of an unknown amount for technical assistance, data scrubbing, and submitter education associated with a reporting structure that diverges from federal requirements.
 - c) One-time costs of approximately \$200,000 to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for a third-party vendor to modify the California Incident-Based Reporting System, including the National Incident-Based Reporting System, use of force, domestic violence death review team, and death in custody modules, and ongoing costs of \$14,000 annually for storage and \$3,750 annually for maintenance and hosting (General Fund). DOJ states the department would be unable to absorb these costs within existing budgeted resources.
 - d) One-time costs of \$80,659 to the California Department of Human Resources to modify the Cal Careers system, including the State Application (Form STD 678) and the Examination and Certification Online System, update data loading processes and approximately 15 pre-existing reports supporting the State Employee Race/Ethnicity Questionnaire (Form 1070) (General Fund), and coordinate with the State Controller's Office.
- 2) Costs of an unknown amount to other state agencies that collect ancestry or ethnic origin data, including the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to add the category to existing collection instruments and published demographic reports. Agencies with simpler collection instruments may absorb the change; agencies operating large claims-processing, eligibility, or case management systems would likely incur one-time system modification costs comparable to those reported above.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California's commitment to equity depends on accurate data. Jewish identity is not solely a religion – it is also a people, a culture, an ethnicity. Yet our statute, agencies, and data systems often treat Jewish Californians as if they exist only in a religious category. . . . SB 1387 does not create a new protected class. It does not remove religious recognition. It simply ensures that Jewish Californians can be accurately counted and understood in the same way California has recognized other ethnic communities.

- 2) **Background.** Existing law requires state agencies collecting ancestry or ethnic origin data to use separate collection categories for specified Asian and Pacific Islander groups, and, under AB 91 (Harabedian), Chapter 357, Statutes of 2025, requires state and local agencies to use separate categories for major Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) groups in reports

published on or after January 1, 2029. This bill follows the same disaggregation model for Jewish ancestry or ethnicity, applying to state agencies only. Collection remains voluntary and self-identified, personal identifying information remains confidential under existing law, and published data appear only in aggregate. The Assembly Judiciary Committee analysis observes that because self-identification is voluntary and many Jewish Californians identify racially or ethnically in other categories, the bill will produce a more accurate picture of how Jewish Californians self-identify rather than a complete count of the Jewish population. The bill's categories will also diverge from the federal Office of Management and Budget race and ethnicity standards, which do not include a Jewish category; researchers comparing state and federal datasets will need to account for that difference.

- 3) **Support and Opposition.** This bill is sponsored by Jewish California and supported by more than 40 Jewish community organizations and the California Federation of Teachers, who contend that Jewish identity encompasses ancestry, culture, and peoplehood, and that the absence of a Jewish category obscures disparities and impedes accurate tracking of antisemitism. Opposition, including Jewish Voice for Peace chapters and Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California, contend the bill inappropriately treats Jewish identity as a single ethnicity, diverges from federal data standards, and carries historical risks associated with government enumeration of Jewish populations. The Judiciary Committee analysis notes that the bill does not create any list of individuals: personal identifying information is confidential under existing law and exempt from public records disclosure.
- 4) **Related Legislation.** AB 1726 (Bonta), Chapter 607, Statutes of 2016, required disaggregation of additional Asian and Pacific Islander subgroups.

SB 189 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 48, Statutes of 2022, required disaggregation of Black subgroups on specified forms.

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