Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1387
Author: Stern (D), et al.
Amended: 8/28/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Rubio, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Choi, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 8/31/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State agencies: collection and reporting of demographic data: Jewish identity

SOURCE: Jewish California

DIGEST: This bill requires a state agency that collects demographic data as to ancestry or ethnic origin to include a separate category and tabulation for Jewish ancestry.

Assembly Amendments delay implementation until January 1, 2029, and authorize a state agency to deviate from the requirements of this bill only upon showing that collecting or reporting demographic data in the manner required by this bill would result in the loss, denial, reduction, or delay of federal funds to the state agency, as described.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires a state agency, board, or commission to include data on specified collection categories and tabulations in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins of California residents that it publishes or releases. Existing law further requires these state agencies to make the collected data available to the public pursuant to state and federal law, except for personal identifying information, which existing law deems confidential.

2) 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 specified Asian Groups and Pacific Islander groups.

3) 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 and North African groups, as specified.

4) Declares that it 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, and states that the purpose of related existing law is to prohibit acts that are contrary to that policy and to provide remedies. For these purpose, existing law defines “race or ethnicity” to include ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, and ethnic background.

5) Requires the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) to use additional separate collection

categories and other tabulations for major Asian groups and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander groups.

6) Requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to collect voluntary self-identification information pertaining to race or ethnic origin of people admitted, in custody, released, or paroled, including, but not limited, specified races and ethnic origins. CDCR is required, based on that voluntary self-identification information, to prepare and publish monthly demographic categories used by the department for the purposes of voluntary self-identification information. Existing law requires the data, except for personally identifying information, which existing law deems confidential, to be publicly available on the CDCR's internet website via the Offender Data Points dashboard.

7) Requires the California Employment Development Department (EDD), in the administration of existing law relating to disability compensation, to collect demographic data for individuals who claim disability benefits or family temporary disability insurance benefits, including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity data, as prescribed. Existing law requires the 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.

8) Provides that, in enacting the California Public Records Act, the Legislature, mindful of the right of individuals to privacy, finds and declares that access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every persons in this state. (Government Code Section 7921.000.)

This bill:

2) Requires, beginning on January 1, 2029, 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.

3) Authorizes a state agency to deviate from this requirement only upon showing that collecting or reporting demographic data in the manner required by this bill

would result in the loss, denial, reduction, or delay of federal funds to the state agency, as described.

4) Requires the state agency, except for personal identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential, to do both of the following with the data:

   a) 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, 2029.
   b) 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.

5) 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.

6) 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.

7) Makes conforming changes to the Education, Penal, and Unemployment Insurance Codes.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "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. That misclassification has real consequences. It affects how hate crimes are recorded. It affects how disparities are identified. And it affects whether communities are visible in the policymaking process. 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. Accurate date leads to better understanding and better policy. This bill is about precision, equity, and fairness."

Jewish Population in California. The Jewish population in California is one of the largest in the United States. According to the World Population Review, most recent estimates put the population at about 1.2 to 1.3 million people, or roughly three percent of the state's population. This makes California second only to New York in overall Jewish Population nationwide.

The community is heavily concentrated in major metropolitan areas, particularly the Los Angeles metropolitan area, which alone contains one of the largest populations outside of Israel, with more than 500,000 residents. Other significant centers include the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego, and parts of Orange County.

The Jewish population in California, like other communities, faces a range of social, economic, and security related challenges. One of the most significant concerns is the rise of antisemitism, including hate crimes, harassment, and vandalism targeting synagogues and community institutions. According to the Public Institute of California, while hate crimes against most racial and ethnic groups declined between 2020 and 2023, anti-Jewish crimes more than doubled between 2020 and 2023. Nearly two-third of hate crimes motivated by anti-Jewish sentiment in 2023 were property crimes.

Existing Data Collection for State Agencies. 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:

a) Each major Asian group, including, but not limited to, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Laotian, and Cambodian.

b) Each major Pacific Islander group, including, but not limited to, Hawaiian, Guamanian, and Samoan.

c) 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.

d) Each major North African group, including, but not limited to, Algerian, Djiboutian, Egyptian, Libyan, Mauritanian, Moroccan, Somali, Sudanese, and Tunisian.

e) 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 DIR and the DFEH are required to collect and tabulate data for the following:

a) Additional major Asian groups, including, but not limited to, Bangladeshi, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, and Thai.

b) Additional major Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander.

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

Additionally, current law requires 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. This bill expands those requirements by mandating that CDCR include Jewish as a distinct category in its demographic reporting.

Finally, under current law, 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 gata pertaining to program participation by individuals and is updated on at least a quarterly basis. This bill expands on those requirements by mandating EDD include Jewish ancestry or ethnicity as a distinct category in its demographic reporting.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 91 (Harabedian, Chapter 357, Statutes of 2025) required 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.

SB 435 (Gonzalez of 2024) would have required the State Department of Social Services, in the course of collecting demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of California residents for any report on the CalFresh program, to use separate collection categories and tabulations for each major Latino group, Mesoamerican Indigenous nation, and Mesoamerican Indigenous language, as specified. (Vetoed by Governor Newsom)

AB 943 (Kalra, Chapter 459, Statutes of 2023) required CDCR to publish its monthly demographic data in a manner disaggregated by race and ethnicity, as specified.

AB 2763 (Essayli of 2024) would have required a state agency that directly or by contract collects demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of California to use separate collections for the Middle Eastern and North African group, as specified. (Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File)

AB 1088 (Eng, Chapter 689, Statutes of 2011) required certain state agencies to collect and tabulate data for additional major Asian groups, as listed, in order to better reflect the diversity of Asian American, Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No
According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

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.

Potential cost mitigation by aligning this bill's January 1, 2027 reporting date with the January 1, 2029 reporting date for the Middle Eastern and North African categories required by AB 91 (Harabedian), Chapter 357, Statutes of 2025.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Jewish California (Source)
30 Years After
Adat Shalom Los Angeles
Agudath Israel of California
Bay Area Center to Counter Antisemitism
Bay Area Jewish Coalition Education & Advocacy
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Board of Rabbis of Southern California
California Jewish Democrats
Chai Marin
Contra Costa Jewish Democrats
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist of America, INC.
Hillel of San Diego
JCC/federation of San Luis Obispo
JCRC, Jewish Long Beach
Jewish California
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Center of Berkeley
Jewish Community Relations Council of Sacramento
Jewish Democratic Coalition of the Bay Area
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jewish Family Service LA
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Federation Los Angeles
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of San Diego
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Federation of Ventura County
Jewish Silicon Valley
JFCS East Bay

Northern California Jewish Labor Committee
Oakland Jewish Alliance
Palo Alto Jewish Alliance
Progressive Zionists of California
SF Jews in School
Stand With Us
Valley Beth Shalom

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Beyt Tikkun Synagogue
BUSD Jewish Parents for Collective Liberation
International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, SF Bay Area Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace – Bay Area Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace – Los Angeles Chapter
National Campus Jewish Alliance – California Chapter
The Workers Circle/Arbeter Ring of Northern California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to Jewish California, Jewish identity is widely understood as encompassing ancestry, history, language, culture, community, and shared values – not solely religion. These are characteristics of an ethnicity. Yet California's data collection systems treat Jewish identity only as a religion, if at all. This results in the systematic undercounting, misclassification, and misunderstanding of Jewish Californians, undermining equitable policymaking and the accurate tracking of antisemitic hate crimes. Importantly, SB 1387 does not remove or replace existing religious categorization. It simply adds the option for Jewish Californians to self-identify based on ethnicity – ensuring that our community is neither invisible nor misrepresented in the data systems that drive critical public health, education, and civil rights decisions."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the National Campus Jewish Alliance – California Chapter, "SB 1387 specifies that 'Jewish' be added to demographic data collection by the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR), and Employment Development Department (EDD). Currently none of these departments collect data on religious identities, and there is no reason for the state to treat Judaism differently than other religions. To do so is unequal and potentially illegal. In addition, history has shown creating 'lists of Jews' that could be accessed by government entities is potentially dangerous for Jewish communities. Furthermore, this bill would define ethnicity and race to include Jewish identity. This is wholly unnecessary. Any protection

against discrimination afforded by California law already applies to Jews as a religious group."

Assembly Floor Third Reading By BERMAN	74	0	5	SB 1387 Stern Senate

Ayes: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

Noes:

No Vote Recorded: Castillo, Chen, Elhawary, Garcia, Lee

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
11/13/26 15:18:22

****** END ******