
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 388
Author: Padilla (D), Cervantes (D), Hurtado (D) and Rubio (D), et al.
Amended: 9/2/25
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 11-2, 3/25/25
AYES: Padilla, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Hurtado,
Richardson, Rubio, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NOES: Jones, Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-1, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 30-8, 6/2/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear,
Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird,
Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio,
Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-9, 9/8/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Latino Commission

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes the California Latino Commission (CLC) to address the inequities faced by the Latino community in housing, education, economic mobility, labor, and health care.

Assembly Amendments of 9/2/25 reduce, from four to two years, the term of a CLC member.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes within the state government various commissions, including, but not limited to, the Commission on the State of Hate, the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, and the California Commission on Disability Access, as specified.
- 2) Requires, via The Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act (Bagley-Keene), with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body.
- 3) Requires any report that is required or requested by law to be submitted by a state or local agency to a committee of the Legislature or the Members of either house of the Legislature generally, to instead be submitted as a printed copy to the Secretary of the Senate, as an electronic copy to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, and as an electronic or printed copy to the Legislative Counsel.
- 4) Establishes the position of Statewide Director of Immigrant Inclusion to develop a comprehensive statewide report on programs and services that serve immigrants, develop an online clearinghouse of immigrant services, resources and programs, and monitor the implementation of statewide laws and regulations that service immigrants.

This bill:

- 1) Establishes, until January 1, 2036, the CLC in state government to address the inequities faced by the Latino community in housing, education, economic mobility, labor, and health care.
- 2) Requires the commission to be composed of three members appointed by the Governor, three members appointed by the President pro Tempore of the Senate, and three members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly who shall have expertise in any of the following areas:
 - a) Housing policy and advocacy.

- b) Education, particularly in community colleges or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
 - c) Labor rights and union representation.
 - d) Public health and health equity, with a focus on Medi-Cal and poverty.
 - e) Economic development and workforce opportunities for Latinos.
 - f) Environment and climate change.
 - g) Small business and entrepreneurship.
 - h) K-12 students.
 - i) Any other area deemed appropriate by the CLC.
- 3) Requires commission members to serve two-year terms and shall meet at least quarterly to review data, develop strategies, and ensure that state policies are effectively addressing the needs of the Latino community.
- 4) Provides that CLC shall have the following powers and duties:
- a) Collecting and analyzing data regarding the disparities faced by Latinos in housing, education, employment, and healthcare, and assessing the effectiveness of existing state programs and policies in addressing those disparities.
 - b) Developing recommendations to address the housing crisis affecting Latinos, as specified.
 - c) Developing initiatives to increase Latino enrollment and graduation rates in STEM fields in California's public universities, private universities, and community colleges, as specified.
 - d) Promoting policies that increase Latino participation in high-wage, high-tech industries, as specified.
 - e) Investigating the low participation of Latinos in organized labor and proposing strategies to increase union representation, collective bargaining rights, and workplace protections for Latinos.
 - f) Working with health agencies to ensure equitable access to health services for Latinos, particularly through Medi-Cal, and developing long-term strategies for reducing poverty and improving the economic mobility of Latino families.
 - g) Monitoring the implementation of state programs and policies affecting the Latino community, tracking progress over time, and reporting findings annually to the Governor and Legislature.
- 5) Requires the CLC to host annual public forums, listening sessions, and town hall meetings across California, particularly in areas with significant Latino

populations, to ensure that community members have a direct role in shaping the commission's agenda and priorities.

- 6) Requires the CLC to collaborate with specified state agencies.
- 7) Requires each state agency to provide appropriate and reasonable assistance to the CLC, as specified.
- 8) Provides that the CLC and its activities shall be supported by appropriations by the Legislature from the General Fund and grants from federal and private sources.
- 9) Requires the CLC to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature detailing its work, recounting the resources it needs, and recommending policies for the following year.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "Latinos are the heart of our economy and our culture here in California. Yet, Latinos continue to face enormous challenges across various metrics including in education, housing, health, and economic mobility. We have not done enough to make Latinos part of our conversation as the state looks forward to the future workforce and our economy. As families face a growing affordability crisis, we must seek every avenue to help underserved communities find greater economic mobility and educational outcomes by ensuring those communities are front and center to the challenges impacting them. For a community as diverse as the Latino community, this means ensuring that they are the driver's seat in identifying challenges and priorities to better serve their needs."

Latino Community in California. The Latino community in California is a vital part of the state's cultural, political, and social landscape. As of the latest census data, Latinos account for approximately 40% of California's population, making them the largest ethnic group in the state. Mexican Americans form the majority, followed by Central Americans, South Americans, and Caribbean Americans.

The roots of the Latino community in California stretch back to the 18th century when Spanish explorers and settlers arrived in the region. The area was part of Mexico until the mid-19th century, which influenced early settlement patterns and cultural ties. Significant migrations of Mexicans to California occurred during the

20th century, particularly during the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) and the Bracero Program (1942-1964), which allowed Mexican laborers temporary work in the United States. Most recent immigrants have come from various countries in Central and South America due to factors like political instability in immigrant's home countries.

The historical ties to California have resulted in significant cultural contributions to the State of California. Spanish is widely spoken in California, and it is not uncommon to find bilingual education programs and various media outlets targeting Spanish speakers. Celebrations such as Dia de los Muertos, Cinco de Mayo, and various other events highlight the rich cultural heritage of the Latino community. Latino cuisine has also had a profound impact on California's food culture, with Mexican food being a staple in California culinary landscape.

Despite all of these contributions, the Latino community has historically faced many challenges including disparities in housing, education, labor, and healthcare. Additionally, the recent intensification of immigration enforcement in California has profoundly affected the Latino community. For example, recent workplace raids, particularly in agriculture, have created a climate of fear among many Latino workers, leading to economic uncertainty for those workers and their families. Raids have also resulted in the detention and deportation of individuals, which can lead to separation of families and create unstable situations for children and relatives who may be U.S. citizens.

The recent fires in southern California have also dramatically impacted the Latino community in California. According to UCLA's Latino Policy & Politics Institute, at least 74,000 Latinos were directly displaced or at risk of displacement due to the wildfires. Additionally, at least 35,000 jobs held by Latinos are at risk of temporary or permanent displacement due to the wildfires. The institute also found that Latino workers face greater economic instability due to limited opportunities for remote work. This disparity reflects the overrepresentation of Latinos in job requiring physical preference, which are particularly vulnerable to layoffs or closures during natural disasters.

Similar Entities in Other States. Several states have established Latino commissions or similar entities to address issues related to the Latino community, promote advocacy, and provide advice on policies affecting the Latino community in those states. These commissions often serve as advisory boards to state governments and focus on such issues as health, education, immigrant, and economic development. For example, the State of Illinois established the Latino

Family Commission which purpose is to advise the Governor and the General Assembly, as well as work directly with state agencies to improve and expand existing policies, services, programs, and opportunities for Latino families. In Massachusetts, Governor Maura T. Healy signed an executive order in 2023, which established the Governor's Council of Latino Empowerment. This council advises the Governor on strategies to expand economic opportunities for and improve the overall wellbeing of Massachusetts's Latino community.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 12 (Gonzalez, 2025) of the current legislative session establishes the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (Office) within a newly created Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency (Agency). The bill would establish duties and responsibilities of the Agency and the Office, which includes, among other duties, establishing a permanent structure within the state to serve immigrants and refugees, and assisting other state agencies in evaluating programs for accessibility and effectiveness in providing services to immigrant and refugees. (Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File)

AB 3031 (Lee, 2024) would have established the LGBTQ+ Commission with the goals of acting in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and the Governor, engaging in fact finding and data collection, reviewing and assessing programs affecting the state's LGBTQ+ community, and providing the Legislature and Governor with information and recommendations to address the needs of California's LGBTQ+ community. (Vetoed by Governor Newsom)

AB 116 (Nakano, Chapter 716, Statutes of 2002) established the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, required the commission to act as a liaison with Asian Pacific islander American (APIA) communities, hold meetings on issues affecting the APIA community, and submit an annual report the Governor and the Legislature that details the commission's activities.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Annual GF costs of an unknown amount, potentially in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars to low millions of dollars, to staff and operate the CLC. The author is requesting state budget funding of \$1 million in the first year and \$500,000 ongoing to establish and support the CLC. At the time of this analysis's preparation, the proposed 2025-26 state budget agreement did not include funding for the CLC.

Additionally, costs to the CLC include office space, equipment, staff salaries, and resources for travel and large public meetings across the state, with significantly higher costs if the CLC requires data collection or other information technology infrastructure. It is likely that the CLC will require comparable resources to existing state commissions with related missions and sizes. For reference, the proposed 2025-26 state budget agreement includes \$959,000 and four positions for the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (GF) and approximately \$2 million and 14 positions for the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (\$1.6 million GF, \$357,000 Women and Girls Fund).

Finally, costs of an unknown, but potentially significant, amount across state agencies to collaborate with the CLC to achieve the CLC's objectives (GF or special fund). Such costs will vary by agency, and may range from minor (if the agency has an informal advisory role) to significant (if formal interagency agreements for data and resource sharing or assistance are needed).

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/2/25)

Alianza Coachella Valley
Alliance for Better Community
California Faculty Association
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
California Human Development
California Latino Legislative Caucus
Center for Employment Training
Central Valley Opportunity Center
First Day Foundation
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
LA Cooperativa Campesina De California
Latino Coalition for A Healthy California
Latino Legislative Caucus
Latino Education Advancement Foundation
Lideres Campesinas en California en California Inc.
Proteus, Inc.
Unidosus
University of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/2/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, “this proposal mirrors existing commissions and is tasked with making recommendations for the Governor and Legislature, developing initiatives, and monitoring progress in tackling disparities facing Latinos. The Latino community is not monolith. The issues facing Latinos in California face vary across the state, some with more urban challenges to those more commonly found in only the most rural areas. The Latino Commission will act as a focal point for experts to address this community’s diverse needs across the state through its ability to conduct research, develop strategies, and outline recommendations across key issues.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-9, 9/8/25

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

NOES: Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Chen, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Lackey, Nguyen, Ta, Wallis

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9/8/25 19:46:36

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