
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 702
Author: Limón (D) and Cervantes (D), et al.
Amended: 9/3/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 13-0, 3/25/25
AYES: Padilla, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Hurtado,
Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Richardson, Rubio, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/22/25
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 6/2/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear,
Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello,
Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-0, 9/9/25 – Roll call not available.

SUBJECT: Legislative and gubernatorial appointments: report

SOURCE: Hispanas Organized for Political Equality

DIGEST: This bill (1) requires the office of the Governor to publish on its internet website a report that contains aggregate demographic information on

appointments by the office of the Governor, as specified. In addition, this bill (2) requires the office of the Governor to maintain on its internet website a list of every state board and commission, including specified data of every state board and commission. Finally, this bill (3) requires the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the Assembly to publish on their respective internet websites aggregate demographic information on the respective legislative appointments of each house, as specified.

Assembly Amendments of 9/3/25 1) require the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, to maintain on their respective websites, or include a link on their respective internet websites to any available resources that contain, a list of each state board or commission that each house has appointment authority over, as well as the board or commission's membership list, state purpose, duties, meeting frequency, internet website, and any vacancies in its membership, and 2) require the aggregate demographic information published by Governor to include the following disclaimer: "Reporting of demographic information by appointed individuals is not required. Therefore, this information only includes voluntarily reported data and does not accurately reflect the demographics of all appointments."

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the Governor to appoint every office whose mode of appointment is not prescribed by law.
- 2) Establishes various boards and commissions within state government.
- 3) States that it is the policy of the State of California that the composition of these state boards and commissions broadly reflect the general public, including ethnic minorities and women.
- 4) Specifies that the Governor and other appointing authorities are responsible for nominating individuals to boards and commissions of different backgrounds, abilities, interests, and opinions. Existing law states, that it is not the intent of the Legislature that formulas or specific ratios be utilized in complying with this article.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the office of the Governor, commencing on January 1, 2027, to maintain on its internet website a list of each board or commission, as well as the board or commission's membership list, stated purpose, duties, meeting frequency, internet website, and any vacancies in its membership.
- 2) Requires the office of the Governor, on or before January 31, 2028, to create and publish on its internet website a report that contains aggregate demographic information, to the extent available, of appointments by the office of the Governor of the previous year.
- 3) Requires the aggregate demographic information published by Governor to include the following disclaimer: "Reporting of demographic information by appointed individuals is not required. Therefore, this information only includes voluntarily reported data and does not accurately reflect the demographics of all appointments."
- 4) Requires the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, beginning on January 1, 2027, to maintain on their respective websites, or include a link on their respective internet websites to any available resources that contain, a list of each state board or commission that each house has appointment authority over, as well as the board or commission's membership list, state purpose, duties, meeting frequency, internet website, and any vacancies in its membership.
- 5) Requires the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, on or before January 31, 2028, and annually thereafter, to publish on their respective internet websites, to the extent available, aggregate demographic information on the respective legislative appointments of each house, made from the previous calendar year.
- 6) Requires the aggregate demographic information published by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the Assembly to include the following disclaimer: "Reporting of demographic information by appointed individuals is not required. Therefore, this information only includes voluntarily reported data and does not accurately reflect the demographics of all legislative appointments."

- 7) Encourages any organization or individual that utilizes or republishes the aggregate demographic information is encouraged to include the disclaimer described above.
- 8) Requires the aggregate demographic information to be published in a manner that does not disclose any personal information and ensures the anonymity of the appointed individuals.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "the collection of legislative and gubernatorial appointee demographic data is a critical step to ensure transparency on statewide boards and commission. The annual report will serve as a tool to show where gaps in representation exists, encourage outreach to communities, and address barriers faced by those seeking an appointment. The annual reports will help build trust in the appointment process and demonstrate that serving on boards and commissions is an opportunity open to all."

Governor Newsom's Vetoes. This bill is nearly similar to last year's, SB 782 (Limón) of 2024, SB 702 (Limón) of 2023, SB 702 (Limón) of 2022, SB 1387 (Limón) of 2022, and SB 702 (Limón) of 2021 which were all vetoed by Governor Newsom. The Governor's veto message for last year's SB 782 (Limón) of 2024 reads:

This bill would require the Governor's Office to annually publish a report containing demographic information of individuals appointed by the Governor.

I am deeply committed to making appointments at every level of government that reflect California's diversity. My office affirmatively and intentionally engages with the Legislature, community partners, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to recruit and develop a diverse and qualified pool of candidates for appointed state positions. I am incredibly proud of the diverse group of Californians who now serve our state in senior, appointed leadership positions.

While I remain concerned about the accuracy of a report that relies on optional and self-reported data, I understand the author's goal to provide an additional layer of transparency and accountability regarding appointments for state positions through this report. Although my administration continues to be transparent in this space, I appreciate the additional

accessibility a public report would help to ensure. However, that goal is only achieved with more comprehensive action that includes Legislative appointments. With that goal in mind, I am committed to legislation next year that includes the same transparency requirements for appointments by the Administration as well as the Legislature. This parity will ensure a complete picture of appointments throughout the state so we can continue to appoint a diverse group of Californians that reflect the makeup of the state.

Legislative Appointments Now Included. As noted above, Governor Newsom, in his veto message from last year's SB 782, committed to legislation that includes the same transparency requirements for appointments by the Administration as well as the Legislature. As such, this year's version of the bill now includes similar reporting requirements for appointments made by both the California State Senate and the California State Assembly.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 782 (Limón, 2024) would have required the office of the Governor to maintain on its internet website a list of every board and commission, including specified data of every state board and commission. In addition, the bill would have required the office of the Governor to publish on its internet website a report that contains aggregate demographic information of appointments by the office of the Governor, as specified. (Vetoed by Governor Newsom)

SB 702 (Limón, 2023) would have required the office of the Governor to maintain on its internet website a list of every state board and commission, including specified data of every state board and commission. In addition, this bill requires the office of the Governor to publish on its internet website a report that contains aggregate demographic information of appointments by the office of the Governor, as specified. (Vetoed by Governor Newsom)

SB 1387 (Limón, 2022) would have required the office of the Governor to publish a report containing the demographic information of individuals who have applied to or been appointed to a state board or commission. Additionally, the bill creates a working group to discuss and provide recommendations on ways to diversify state boards and commissions. (Vetoed by Governor Newsom)

SB 702 (Limón, 2021) would have required the office of the Governor to publish a report containing the demographic information of individuals who have applied to or been appointed to a state board or commission. Additionally, the bill would

have created a working group to discuss and provide recommendations on ways to diversity state boards and commissions. (Vetoed by Governor Newsom)

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

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, minor and absorbable costs to the Governor's office to maintain and publish the required information. The Governor's Appointments Unit notes it has a new information technology system licensed through the summer of 2027 that will generally enable the office to meet this bill's requirements. Although there will be ongoing costs to renew or modify the license, such costs would likely be incurred to facilitate the work of the unit regardless of this bill.

Additionally, cost pressures of an unknown, but likely absorbable, amount to the Legislature to publish the required information. Unlike other state agencies whose budgets may increase annually (subject to the budget process) in response to rising caseloads and additional workload, the Legislature's ability to spend is more constrained. Specifically, Proposition 140 (1990) set an annual cap on expenditures to support the Legislature's operations. The cap is calculated based on growth in the state's economy and population, and is completely outside the Legislature's control.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/5/25)

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (Source)

50/50 Women on Boards

Alliance for a Better Community

API Equity Alliance

API Equality-Los Angeles

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Asian Law Alliance

Asociacion De Emprendedor@s

Black Women Organized for Political Action

CA Now

California Community Builders

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

Campaign for College Opportunity

Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment

Chicana Latina Foundation

Close the Gap California

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Courage California
Dolores Huerta Foundation
Education and Leadership Foundation
El/la Para Translatinas
Equality California
Flux
GLSEN San Diego County
Greenfield Walking Group
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley
Latino Donor Collaborative, INC.
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics
LEAP
Long Beach Forward
Mana De San Diego
Moonbow
National Women's Political Caucus of California
Proyecto Trans Latinas
Puente Learning Center
Riverside LGBTQ+ Pride
San Diego LGBT Community Center
She the People
uAspire
UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute
United for Justice
Unity Council
Ventures
Wonderstone

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/5/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, “SB 702 expands on past efforts by also including legislative appointment, further strengthening transparency. The Governor and Legislature collectively appoint leaders to more than 580 boards and commissions, filling

thousands of seats that influence resource allocation, infrastructure, and oversight of critical programs. Without clear public reporting on these appointments, communities cannot assess whether they are equitably represented in these powerful decision-making bodies.”

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
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