

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 998 (Gonzalez) – As Amended June 18, 2026

Policy Committee:	Education	Vote:	6 - 0
	Judiciary		9 - 3

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

SUMMARY:

This bill defines the roles and responsibilities of each of the Discrimination Prevention Coordinators established by SB 48 (Gonzalez), Chapter 429, Statutes of 2025. Additionally, the bill adds (a) a Disability Discrimination Prevention Coordinator to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), within the Government Operations Agency (GovOps), and (b) adds the positions of deputy coordinators reporting to the Race and Ethnicity Discrimination Prevention Coordinator within OCR. The bill requires that each Discrimination Prevention Coordinator carry out their duties in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE) and under the supervision of GovOps.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time General Fund costs of \$2.46 million and \$1.96 million annually ongoing for GovOps to provide for the new Discrimination Prevention Coordinator positions, two additional administrative support staff positions, development of educational and training materials, and acquisition of new office space to support increased staffing.

AB 109 (Gabriel), Chapter 19, Statutes of 2026, includes provisional language authorizing the Director of Finance to appropriate up to \$3.581 million to GovOps to support implementation of this bill.

- 2) Minor and absorbable costs to CDE though CDE contends that its specific role and expectations as a consulting entity to the OCR is unclear.

COMMENTS:

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

Last year, working with my Diversity caucus colleagues- the California Black Legislative Caucus, AAPI Legislative Caucus, and LGBTQ Legislative Caucus- the Legislature passed SB 48 (Gonzalez/Weber/Fong/Ward), which created four discrimination prevention coordinators under the newly established Office of Civil Rights. My colleagues and I committed to working on subsequent legislation to clarify the role of each coordinator and create a Disability Discrimination Prevention coordinator based on stakeholder feedback. SB 998 builds on that commitment by establishing clear

guidelines and expectations for the service coordinators to provide, at the request of the local educational agency, technical assistance so that all student populations receive equal protection, proactive support services, and timely responses to discriminatory incidents.

- 2) Background.** AB 715 (Zbur), Chapter 428, Statutes of 2025, established the OCR and an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator within the OCR. AB 715 also required all instruction be factually accurate, aligned to state curriculum, and consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility, rather than advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship, and expanded prohibitions on the use of discriminatory instructional materials that are subject to the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) investigation process and potential fiscal penalties resulting from noncompliance.

Subsequently, SB 48 (Gonzalez) established additional Discrimination Prevention Coordinators, which are the Religious, Race and Ethnicity, Gender, and LGBTQ+ Discrimination Prevention Coordinators. This bill delineates each of the coordinator's roles and responsibilities and also adds a Disability Discrimination Prevention Coordinator. In general, this bill requires each Discrimination Prevention Coordinator to develop and provide resources, training, and technical assistance to local educational agencies and the CDE, and, beginning September 1, 2027, track and report data to the Legislature regarding complaints of discrimination for each respective coordinator's area.

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