AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2025 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 935

Introduced by Assembly Member Ransom

February 19, 2025

An act to add *Section 33315.5 to the Education Code, and to add* Section 8310.10 to the Government Code, relating to state government administration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 935, as amended, Ransom. State agencies: demographics. complaints: demographic data.

(1) Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish and implement a system of complaint processing, known as the Uniform Complaint Procedures, for specified educational programs, and requires the State Department of Education to review those regulations pertaining to uniform complaint procedures for specified types of complaints, including those that allege unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group, as provided. Existing law requires the department to, on or before March 31, 2019, commence rulemaking proceedings to revise those regulations, as necessary, to conform to specified provisions.

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill would require, upon receipt of a complaint subject to the Uniform Complaint Procedures that alleges unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying received by the department, the Superintendent to collect specified information, including, among other things, a description of the complaint received.

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The bill would require the Superintendent to create and post on the department's internet website a summary report of the data described above and provide a copy of the report to the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery, which would be established as provided by SB 518 of the 2025–26 Regular Session of the Legislature, and require the bureau to create and publish a dashboard that allows the public to view the data.

Existing

(2) Existing law, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, among other things, establishes the Civil Rights Department and authorizes it to receive, investigate, conciliate, mediate, and prosecute complaints alleging various civil rights violations, including violations of provisions regarding individuals with disabilities.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish and implement a system of complaint processing, known as the Uniform Complaint Procedures, for specified educational programs, and requires the State Department of Education to review those regulations pertaining to uniform complaint procedures for specified types of complaints, including those that allege unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group, as provided. Existing law requires the department to, on or before March 31, 2019, commence rulemaking proceedings to revise those regulations, as necessary, to conform to specified provisions.

Existing law, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Disparities Reduction Act, requires the Civil Rights Department, among other specified state entities, in the course of collecting demographic data directly or by contract as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians, to collect voluntary self-identification information pertaining to sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics/intersex status, as specified.

This bill would require the Civil Rights Department—and the State Department of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to collect, for a complaint received, certain demographic information, including, ethnicity, race, and gender of the individual submitting the complaint, and certain information related to the complaint, including, among other things, a description of the complaint received. The bill would require—those state agencies the department to publish the compiled information on—their its internet—websites website and to transmit the data to the Bureau for Descendants of American—Slavery, which would be established as provided by SB 518 of the 2025—26

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Regular Session of the Legislature, *Slavery* for creation and publication of dashboards, as specified.

Existing

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(3) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 33315.5 is added to the Education Code, 2 to read:
- 33315.5. (a) Beginning July 1, 2026, upon receipt of a complaint that alleges unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying received by the department pursuant to subparagraph (F) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 33315, the Superintendent shall collect all of the following information:
 - (1) The self-identified protected group of the complainant, if voluntarily provided.
 - (2) A description of the complaint received.
 - (3) Any action taken by the department in response to the complaint and the timeline for that action.
 - (4) The disposition of the complaint.
 - (b) (1) Beginning July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the department shall create and post on the department's internet website a summary report of the information collected pursuant to subdivision (a) and provide a copy of the report to the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery.
 - (2) The Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery shall create and publish a dashboard that allows the public to view the data in the report required by paragraph (1).
- 23 (3) The summary report and the dashboard described in this 24 subdivision shall not include the personally identifiable information 25 of any complainant.

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(c) The collection, publication, and transmission of data required by this section shall comply with all applicable state and 3 federal privacy laws.

SECTION 1.

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- SEC. 2. Section 8310.10 is added to the Government Code, to read:
- 8310.10. (a) For purposes of this section, "state entity" means either of the following: "department" means the Civil Rights Department.
 - (1) The Civil Rights Department.
- (2) The State Department of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- (b) For a complaint received by a state entity, the state entity the department, the department shall collect all of the following information:
- (1) Demographic data relative to ethnicity, race, gender, age, and other critical demographic information from the individual submitting the complaint collected in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.
 - (2) A description of the complaint received.
- (3) Any action taken by the entity department in response to the complaint received and the timeline for that action.
 - (4) The disposition of the complaint.
- (c) (1) A state entity-The department shall publish the data described in subdivision (b) on their its internet websites, website, except for personal identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential.
- (2) A state entity—The department shall transmit the data described in subdivision (b) to the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery who shall create and publish dashboards that allow the public to view the collected data, except for personal identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential.
- 33 (3) The publication and transmission of data described in 34 paragraphs (1) and (2) shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws. 35
- 36 **SEC. 2.**
- 37 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section + 2 of 38 this act, which adds Section 8310.10 to the Government Code,
- imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings 39
- of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies 40

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within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:
In order to protect the privacy of California residents, while also gathering and publicizing useful demographic data, it is necessary that personal identifying information remain confidential.