

Senate Bill 702

Transparency in Boards and Commissions



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REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 21

THIS BILL

On or before January 1, 2028, SB 702 requires the Governor's Office and the Legislature to annually report and post the aggregate demographic information of individuals appointed to statewide boards and commissions on their respective websites.

SB 702 requires the aggregate demographic information to only include legislative appointments created by statute, clarify that it is voluntarily reported data, and exclude ex officio legislative members.

The bill also requires the Governor's office to maintain an updated website with information on all state boards and commissions, including vacancies, current membership list, and frequency of meetings.

BACKGROUND

Statewide boards and commissions provide critical avenues for Californians to engage in public policy. The Governor's office is the largest appointing body in the state, with appointment authority to over 360 boards, commissions, and positions in state government. The State Senate and State Assembly collectively have appointment authority over nearly 200 boards and commissions.

California has an expressed commitment in ensuring state boards and commissions are reflective of the state, yet no formal mechanisms exist to evaluate Gubernatorial or Legislative appointments. (Gov. Code § 11140)

In 2014, Illinois enacted the Gubernatorial Boards and Commissions Act to provide transparency in statewide appointments as it relates to race, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. The annual reportⁱ

has been a critical tool in ensuring stakeholder perspective in state government is reflective of the communities served.

The Judicial Council collects and releases aggregate demographic data relative to the gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran and disability status of state court justices and judges. (Gov. Code § 12011.5(n))

PURPOSE

The collection of gubernatorial and legislative appointee demographic data is a critical step to ensure transparency and enshrine principles of good governance into our statewide appointment process.

The annual reports will serve as a tool to provide transparency on board and commission appointments; ensuring the public is informed about who is being appointed; and how these bodies are structured. The reports will help build trust in the appointment process and demonstrate that serving on boards and commissions is an opportunity open to all.

SUPPORT

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
(Sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None on File

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ⁱ <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/baz/Documents/2020%20Boards%20and%20Commissions%20Act%20Report%2010.1.2020.pdf>