



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 10052



Offered by:

SEN. FLEXER, 29<sup>th</sup> Dist.

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REP. FOX, 148<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 1073

File No. 524

Cal. No. 305

**"AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)  
4 "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World  
5 Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any  
6 related mutation thereof recognized by the World Health Organization  
7 as a communicable respiratory disease; (2) "equity" and "equitable"  
8 means efforts, regulations, policies, programs, standards, processes and  
9 any other functions of government or principles of law and governance  
10 intended to: (A) Identify and remedy past and present patterns of  
11 discrimination or inequality against and disparities in outcome for any  
12 class protected in chapter 814c of the general statutes; (B) ensure that  
13 such patterns of discrimination, inequality and disparities in outcome,  
14 whether intentional or unintentional, are neither reinforced nor

15 perpetuated; and (C) prevent the emergence and persistence of  
16 foreseeable future patterns of discrimination against or disparities in  
17 outcome for any class protected in chapter 814c of the general statutes;  
18 (3) "underserved communities" means populations sharing a particular  
19 characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been  
20 systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of  
21 economic, social and civic life, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous  
22 and Native American persons; Asian Americans and Pacific Islander  
23 and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian,  
24 gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons; persons with disabilities;  
25 persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely  
26 affected by persistent poverty or inequality, and (4) "department head"  
27 has the same meaning as provided in section 4-5 of the general statutes.

28 (b) Not later than October 1, 2021, the Department of Administrative  
29 Services, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management and  
30 the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall issue a  
31 request for proposals to hire a national consultant with expertise in  
32 qualitative and quantitative research to conduct a study and make  
33 recommendations as outlined in subsections (e) and (f) of this section.  
34 The deadline for responding to the request for proposals shall be not  
35 more than seventy-five days from the date of issuance of the request for  
36 proposals.

37 (c) The department, in consultation with the commission and the  
38 office, shall develop criteria for evaluating proposals relating to  
39 conducting such study, including, but not limited to, (1) the anticipated  
40 cost of completing such a study; (2) the anticipated timeline for  
41 completing such a study; and (3) the proposers' experience in  
42 conducting and completing such a study.

43 (d) Not later than February 1, 2022, the department, the commission  
44 and the office shall evaluate the proposals submitted under subsection  
45 (a) of this section and select the proposer which shall conduct the study.

46 (e) The selected proposer conducting the study shall, in consultation

47 with the department, commission and office:

48 (1) (A) Examine the best methods, consistent with applicable law, to  
49 assist state agencies in assessing equity with respect to race, national  
50 origin, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, sex, gender identity,  
51 sexual orientation and disability that are identified in the federal Office  
52 of Management and Budget report required by President Biden's  
53 January 20, 2021, Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and  
54 Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal  
55 Government, (B) whether those methods would be appropriate for use  
56 in assessing state agency policies and actions, and (C) if such methods  
57 are not appropriate, what alternative methods would be more  
58 appropriate for use at the state level to assist state agencies in assessing  
59 equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography,  
60 gender identity, sexual orientation and disability;

61 (2) Identify the best methods, consistent with applicable law, to assist  
62 state agencies in assessing the existing barriers to equity for  
63 underserved communities experiencing negative health and economic  
64 impacts of COVID-19; and

65 (3) Consider whether to recommend legislation to create pilot  
66 programs to test model assessment tools and assist state agencies in  
67 doing so.

68 (f) The selected proposer shall also, in consultation with the  
69 department, commission and office, and each department head:

70 (1) Evaluate certain key programs and policies of each state agency as  
71 identified by each department head, to assess whether underserved  
72 communities and their members face systemic barriers in accessing  
73 benefits and opportunities available pursuant to those policies and  
74 programs;

75 (2) Analyze potential barriers that underserved communities and  
76 individuals may face to enrollment in and access to benefits and services  
77 in state programs;

78 (3) Evaluate existing inequities or barriers in department programs  
79 or policies that were revealed or worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic;  
80 and

81 (4) Evaluate whether new policies, regulations or guidance  
82 documents may be necessary to advance equity in state agency actions  
83 and programs.

84 (g) In complying with the provisions of this section, the selected  
85 proposer and department heads shall work with the commission to  
86 consult with members of communities that have been historically  
87 underrepresented in state government and underserved by, or subject  
88 to discrimination in, state policies and programs. Each department head  
89 shall evaluate opportunities, consistent with applicable law, to increase  
90 coordination, communication and engagement with community-based  
91 organizations and civil rights organizations.

92 (h) Not later than February 15, 2023, the department, in consultation  
93 with the commission and the office, shall submit the findings of such  
94 study and any recommendations for legislative action concerning such  
95 study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
96 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
97 having cognizance of matters relating to government administration."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section