



AB 953: THE RACIAL & IDENTITY PROFILING ACT OF 2015 (Weber)

AB 953 promotes equal justice and fairness by creating solutions to the problem of racial and identity profiling. This bill will:

1. Modernize California's definition of profiling to account for identity characteristics beyond race.
2. Create a system for collecting and reporting basic information on police-community interactions.
3. Enhance training on fair and impartial policing.
4. Establish an advisory board that develops solutions to curb profiling.

Why do we need AB 953?

AB 953 brings California law into the modern era. The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and U.S. Dept. of Justice recommend that agencies prohibit profiling not only based on race, but also gender, national origin, religion, and sexual orientation. AB 953 tracks this modern approach.

AB 953 improves police-community relations. Public distrust concerning the fairness of policing stems from a lack of transparency and attendant accountability. AB 953 fills this void by creating a system for collecting and reporting basic information on law enforcement stops, and establishing a solution-driven advisory board.

AB 953 enhances public safety. Profiling is ineffective because stopping or searching people based on race or other identity characteristics, rather than evidence of criminal activity, misdirects limited resources away from evidence-based policing. By preventing profiling, AB 953 facilitates the efficient pursuit of people who actually pose a threat to public safety.

AB 953 addresses Californian's concerns. A recent poll shows that 55% of Californians and 85% of African-Americans in California believe that "blacks and other minorities do not receive equal treatment in the criminal justice system." Racial and identity profiling significantly contributes to this lack of confidence in our justice system.

In California, many people have been victims of the humiliating and frightening experience of identity

profiling. A 2015 report by a police department in California found that blacks were stopped twice as often as their driving age demographic representation, and that blacks and Latinos were searched at three and two times the rate of whites, respectively. However, those searches showed that blacks and Latinos were *less likely* to be arrested.

In 2000, the CA legislature found that "racial profiling is a practice that presents a great danger to the fundamental principles of a democratic society," and declared that "it is abhorrent and cannot be tolerated." Subsequently, the Legislative Analyst's Office found that California's law on profiling is too vague and that law enforcement agencies have resisted following it.

AB 953 will improve public safety, protect the rights of all Californians, and advance police-community relations.

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