AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1388

Introduced by Assembly Member Bryan

February 21, 2025

An act to add Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 13545) to Chapter 1 of Title 4 of Part 4 amend Sections 832.7 and 13510.9 of the Penal Code, relating to law enforcement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1388, as amended, Bryan. Law enforcement: settlement agreements: prohibition. agreements.

Existing law establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, and requires the commission to, among other things, establish a certification program for peace officers, as defined. Existing law requires the commission to establish procedures for accepting complaints from members of the public regarding peace officers or law enforcement agencies that may be investigated. Existing law establishes, within the commission, the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division and requires the division, among other things, to bring proceedings seeking the suspension or revocation of certification of a peace officer.

Existing law, the California Public Records Act, generally requires public records to be open for inspection by the public. Existing law provides numerous exceptions to this requirement. Under existing law, the personnel records of peace officers and custodial officers are confidential and not subject to public inspection. Existing law provides certain exemptions to this confidentiality, including the reports,

investigations, and findings of certain incidents involving the use of force by a peace officer.

This bill would prohibit a law enforcement agency from entering into a settlement agreement with a peace officer who has a pending complaint of misconduct with a term that requires the law enforcement agency to keep the misconduct confidential.

This bill would additionally exempt agreements between an employing agency and a peace officer that, among other things, require the agency to destroy, remove, or conceal a record of a misconduct investigation. The bill would also require any agency employing a peace officer to report certain events to the commission, that occurred after January 1, 2020, and resulted in the peace officer's separation from employment or appointment after January 1, 2023, and include the reason for the separation and whether the separation was part of the resolution or a settlement. The bill would declare that its provisions are severable.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

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. The Legislature finds and declares the following: 2 (a) Separation agreements that obscure information about 3 officer misconduct by requiring law enforcement agencies to 4 destroy, remove, conceal, or replace records and findings of 5 officers' misconduct, or make particular findings in misconduct 6 investigations, or refrain from disclosing information about 7 misconduct, are contrary to the express provisions and underlying 8 policy of existing law.

9 (b) Because settlement agreements requiring law enforcement 10 agencies to obscure information about officer misconduct are 11 specifically designed to exempt officers from responsibility for

12 fraud, injuring community members' persons and property, and

1 other violations of law and agency policy, the agreements are also 2 contrary to good morals and public policy.

3 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature to expressly declare that 4 these settlement agreements are against public policy, and to affirm 5 the reporting, retention, and disclosure requirements of existing 6 law.

7 SEC. 2. Section 832.7 of the Penal Code is amended to read: 8 832.7. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the personnel 9 records of peace officers and custodial officers and records 10 maintained by a state or local agency pursuant to Section 832.5, 11 or information obtained from these records, are confidential and 12 shall not be disclosed in any criminal or civil proceeding except 13 by discovery pursuant to Sections 1043 and 1046 of the Evidence Code. This section does not apply to investigations or proceedings 14 15 concerning the conduct of peace officers or custodial officers, or 16 an agency or department that employs those officers, conducted 17 by a grand jury, a district attorney's office, the Attorney General's 18 office, or the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. 19 (b) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), Section 7923.600 of 20 the Government Code, or any other law, the following peace officer 21 or custodial officer personnel records and records maintained by 22 a state or local agency shall not be confidential and shall be made 23 available for public inspection pursuant to the California Public 24 Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) 25 of Title 1 of the Government Code): 26 (A) A record relating to the report, investigation, or findings of 27 any of the following:

28 (i) An incident involving the discharge of a firearm at a person 29 by a peace officer or custodial officer.

- 30 (ii) An incident involving the use of force against a person by 31 a peace officer or custodial officer that resulted in death or in great 32 bodily injury.
- 33 (iii) A sustained finding involving a complaint that alleges unreasonable or excessive force. 34

35 (iv) A sustained finding that an officer failed to intervene against 36 another officer using force that is clearly unreasonable or excessive. 37 (B) (i) Any record relating to an incident in which a sustained

- 38 finding was made by any law enforcement agency or oversight 39 agency that a peace officer or custodial officer engaged in sexual
- 40 assault involving a member of the public.

(ii) As used in this subparagraph, "sexual assault" means the
commission or attempted initiation of a sexual act with a member
of the public by means of force, threat, coercion, extortion, offer
of leniency or other official favor, or under the color of authority.
For purposes of this definition, the propositioning for or
commission of any sexual act while on duty is considered a sexual
assault.

8 (iii) As used in this subparagraph, "member of the public" means 9 any person not employed by the officer's employing agency and 10 includes any participant in a cadet, explorer, or other youth program 11 affiliated with the agency.

(C) Any record relating to an incident in which a sustained 12 13 finding was made by any law enforcement agency or oversight agency involving dishonesty by a peace officer or custodial officer 14 15 directly relating to the reporting, investigation, or prosecution of a crime, or directly relating to the reporting of, or investigation of 16 17 misconduct by, another peace officer or custodial officer, including, 18 but not limited to, any false statements, filing false reports, 19 destruction, falsifying, or concealing of evidence, or perjury. 20 (D) Any record relating to an incident in which a sustained

21 finding was made by any law enforcement agency or oversight 22 agency that a peace officer or custodial officer engaged in conduct 23 including, but not limited to, verbal statements, writings, online posts, recordings, and gestures, involving prejudice or 24 25 discrimination against a person on the basis of race, religious creed, 26 color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, 27 28 sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual 29 orientation, or military and veteran status.

30 (E) Any record relating to an incident in which a sustained 31 finding was made by any law enforcement agency or oversight 32 agency that the peace officer made an unlawful arrest or conducted 33 an unlawful search.

34 (F) An agreement prohibited by subdivision (e) of Section 35 13510.9.

(2) Records that are subject to disclosure under clause (iii) or
(iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), or under subparagraph
(D) or (E) of paragraph (1), relating to an incident that occurs
before January 1, 2022, shall not be subject to the time limitations

40 in paragraph (11) until January 1, 2023.

1 (3) Records that shall be released pursuant to this subdivision 2 include all investigative reports; photographic, audio, and video 3 evidence; transcripts or recordings of interviews; autopsy reports; 4 all materials compiled and presented for review to the district 5 attorney or to any person or body charged with determining 6 whether to file criminal charges against an officer in connection 7 with an incident, whether the officer's action was consistent with 8 law and agency policy for purposes of discipline or administrative 9 action, or what discipline to impose or corrective action to take; 10 documents setting forth findings or recommended findings; and 11 copies of disciplinary records relating to the incident, including 12 any letters of intent to impose discipline, any documents reflecting 13 modifications of discipline due to the Skelly or grievance process, 14 and letters indicating final imposition of discipline or other 15 documentation reflecting implementation of corrective action. Records that shall be released pursuant to this subdivision also 16 17 include records relating to an incident specified in paragraph (1) 18 in which the peace officer or custodial officer resigned before the 19 law enforcement agency or oversight agency concluded its 20 investigation into the alleged incident. 21 (4) A record from a separate and prior investigation or 22 assessment of a separate incident shall not be released unless it is 23 independently subject to disclosure pursuant to this subdivision. 24 (5) If an investigation or incident involves multiple officers, 25 information about allegations of misconduct by, or the analysis or 26 disposition of an investigation of, an officer shall not be released

pursuant to subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of paragraph (1), unless it relates to a sustained finding regarding that officer that is itself subject to disclosure pursuant to this section. However, factual information about that action of an officer during an incident, or the statements of an officer about an incident, shall be released if they are relevant to a finding against another officer that is subject to release pursuant to subparagraph (B), (C), (D),

34 or (E) of paragraph (1).

35 (6) An agency shall redact a record disclosed pursuant to this36 section only for any of the following purposes:

(A) To remove personal data or information, such as a home
address, telephone number, or identities of family members, other
than the names and work-related information of peace and custodial
officers.

1 (B) To preserve the anonymity of whistleblowers, complainants, 2 victims, and witnesses.

3 (C) To protect confidential medical, financial, or other 4 information of which disclosure is specifically prohibited by federal 5 law or would cause an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy 6 that clearly outweighs the strong public interest in records about 7 possible misconduct and use of force by peace officers and 8 custodial officers.

9 (D) Where there is a specific, articulable, and particularized 10 reason to believe that disclosure of the record would pose a 11 significant danger to the physical safety of the peace officer, 12 custodial officer, or another person.

(7) Notwithstanding paragraph (6), an agency may redact a
record disclosed pursuant to this section, including personal
identifying information, where, on the facts of the particular case,
the public interest served by not disclosing the information clearly
outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the
information.

19 (8) An agency may withhold a record of an incident described 20 in paragraph (1) that is the subject of an active criminal or 21 administrative investigation, in accordance with any of the 22 following:

23 (A) (i) During an active criminal investigation, disclosure may be delayed for up to 60 days from the date the misconduct or use 24 25 of force occurred or until the district attorney determines whether 26 to file criminal charges related to the misconduct or use of force, 27 whichever occurs sooner. If an agency delays disclosure pursuant 28 to this clause, the agency shall provide, in writing, the specific 29 basis for the agency's determination that the interest in delaying 30 disclosure clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure. This writing shall include the estimated date for disclosure of the 31 32 withheld information.

33 (ii) After 60 days from the misconduct or use of force, the 34 agency may continue to delay the disclosure of records or information if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to 35 36 interfere with a criminal enforcement proceeding against an officer 37 who engaged in misconduct or used the force. If an agency delays 38 disclosure pursuant to this clause, the agency shall, at 180-day 39 intervals as necessary, provide, in writing, the specific basis for 40 the agency's determination that disclosure could reasonably be

1 expected to interfere with a criminal enforcement proceeding. The

2 writing shall include the estimated date for the disclosure of the3 withheld information. Information withheld by the agency shall

4 be disclosed when the specific basis for withholding is resolved,

5 when the investigation or proceeding is no longer active, or by no

6 later than 18 months after the date of the incident, whichever occurs
7 sooner.

8 (iii) After 60 days from the misconduct or use of force, the 9 agency may continue to delay the disclosure of records or 10 information if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to 11 interfere with a criminal enforcement proceeding against someone 12 other than the officer who engaged in the misconduct or used the force. If an agency delays disclosure under this clause, the agency 13 shall, at 180-day intervals, provide, in writing, the specific basis 14 15 why disclosure could reasonably be expected to interfere with a criminal enforcement proceeding, and shall provide an estimated 16 17 date for the disclosure of the withheld information. Information 18 withheld by the agency shall be disclosed when the specific basis 19 for withholding is resolved, when the investigation or proceeding 20 is no longer active, or by no later than 18 months after the date of 21 the incident, whichever occurs sooner, unless extraordinary 22 circumstances warrant continued delay due to the ongoing criminal 23 investigation or proceeding. In that case, the agency must show 24 by clear and convincing evidence that the interest in preventing 25 prejudice to the active and ongoing criminal investigation or 26 proceeding outweighs the public interest in prompt disclosure of 27 records about misconduct or use of force by peace officers and 28 custodial officers. The agency shall release all information subject 29 to disclosure that does not cause substantial prejudice, including 30 any documents that have otherwise become available. 31 (iv) In an action to compel disclosure brought pursuant to

32 Section 7923.000 of the Government Code, an agency may justify

33 delay by filing an application to seal the basis for withholding, in

34 accordance with Rule 2.550 of the California Rules of Court, or

35 any successor rule, if disclosure of the written basis itself would

36 impact a privilege or compromise a pending investigation.

37 (B) If criminal charges are filed related to the incident in which 38 misconduct occurred or force was used, the agency may delay the

misconduct occurred or force was used, the agency may delay thedisclosure of records or information until a verdict on those charges

1 is returned at trial or, if a plea of guilty or no contest is entered,

2 the time to withdraw the plea pursuant to Section 1018.

3 (C) During an administrative investigation into an incident 4 described in paragraph (1), the agency may delay the disclosure

4 described in paragraph (1), the agency may delay the disclosure5 of records or information until the investigating agency determines

6 whether the misconduct or use of force violated a law or agency

7 policy, but no longer than 180 days after the date of the employing

8 agency's discovery of the misconduct or use of force, or allegation
9 of misconduct or use of force, by a person authorized to initiate

10 an investigation.

(9) A record of a complaint, or the investigations, findings, or
dispositions of that complaint, shall not be released pursuant to
this section if the complaint is frivolous, as defined in Section
128.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, or if the complaint is

15 unfounded.

16 (10) The cost of copies of records subject to disclosure pursuant

17 to this subdivision that are made available upon the payment of

18 fees covering direct costs of duplication pursuant to subdivision

19 (a) of Section 7922.530 of the Government Code shall not include

20 the costs of searching for, editing, or redacting the records.

21 (11) Except to the extent temporary withholding for a longer 22 period is permitted pursuant to paragraph (8), records subject to

period is permitted pursuant to paragraph (8), records subject todisclosure under this subdivision shall be provided at the earliest

24 possible time and no later than 45 days from the date of a request

25 for their disclosure.

26 (12) (A) For purposes of releasing records pursuant to this27 subdivision, the lawyer-client privilege does not prohibit the28 disclosure of either of the following:

(i) Factual information provided by the public entity to its
attorney or factual information discovered in any investigation
conducted by, or on behalf of, the public entity's attorney.

(ii) Billing records related to the work done by the attorney so
long as the records do not relate to active and ongoing litigation
and do not disclose information for the purpose of legal
consultation between the public entity and its attorney.

36 (B) This paragraph does not prohibit the public entity from
37 asserting that a record or information within the record is exempted
38 or prohibited from disclosure pursuant to any other federal or state

39 law.

1 (13) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) or any other law, an agency 2 that formerly employed a peace officer or custodial officer may, 3 without receiving a request for disclosure, disclose to the public 4 the termination for cause of that officer by that agency for any 5 disclosable incident, including those described in subparagraphs 6 (A) to (E), inclusive, of paragraph (1). Any such disclosure shall 7 be at the discretion of the agency and shall not include any 8 information otherwise prohibited from disclosure. This paragraph 9 is declaratory of existing law.

9

10 (c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), a department or 11 agency shall release to the complaining party a copy of the 12 complaining party's own statements at the time the complaint is 13 filed.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), a department or
agency that employs peace or custodial officers may disseminate
data regarding the number, type, or disposition of complaints
(sustained, not sustained, exonerated, or unfounded) made against
its officers if that information is in a form which does not identify
the individuals involved.

20 (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), a department or 21 agency that employs peace or custodial officers may release factual 22 information concerning a disciplinary investigation if the officer 23 who is the subject of the disciplinary investigation, or the officer's 24 agent or representative, publicly makes a statement they know to 25 be false concerning the investigation or the imposition of 26 disciplinary action. Information may not be disclosed by the peace 27 or custodial officer's employer unless the false statement was 28 published by an established medium of communication, such as 29 television, radio, or a newspaper. Disclosure of factual information 30 by the employing agency pursuant to this subdivision is limited 31 to facts contained in the officer's personnel file concerning the 32 disciplinary investigation or imposition of disciplinary action that 33 specifically refute the false statements made public by the peace 34 or custodial officer or their agent or representative.

(f) (1) The department or agency shall provide written
notification to the complaining party of the disposition of the
complaint within 30 days of the disposition.

38 (2) The notification described in this subdivision is not 39 conclusive or binding or admissible as evidence in any separate 1 or subsequent action or proceeding brought before an arbitrator,

2 court, or judge of this state or the United States.

3 (g) This section does not affect the discovery or disclosure of 4 information contained in a peace or custodial officer's personnel 5 file pursuant to Section 1043 of the Evidence Code.

6 (h) This section does not supersede or affect the criminal 7 discovery process outlined in Chapter 10 (commencing with 8 Section 1054) of Title 6 of Part 2, or the admissibility of personnel 9 records pursuant to subdivision (a), which codifies the court 10 decision in Pitchess v. Superior Court (1974) 11 Cal.3d 531.

11 (i) Nothing in this chapter is intended to limit the public's right 12 of access as provided for in Long Beach Police Officers 13 Association w City of Long Beach (2014) 50 Col 4th 50

13 Association v. City of Long Beach (2014) 59 Cal.4th 59.

SEC. 3. Section 13510.9 of the Penal Code is amended to read:
15 13510.9. (a) Beginning January 1, 2023, any agency employing
peace officers shall report to the commission within 10 days, in a
form specified by the commission, any of the following events:

18 (1) The employment, appointment, or termination or separation 19 from employment or appointment, by that agency, of any peace 20 officer. Separation from employment or appointment includes any 21 involuntary termination, resignation, or retirement.

(2) Any complaint, charge, or allegation of conduct against a
peace officer employed by that agency that could render a peace
officer subject to suspension or revocation of certification by the
commission pursuant to Section 13510.8.

(3) Any finding or recommendation by a civilian oversight entity, including a civilian review board, civilian police commission, police chief, or civilian inspector general, that a peace officer employed by that agency engaged in conduct that could render a peace officer subject to suspension or revocation of certification by the commission pursuant to Section 13510.8.

(4) The final disposition of any investigation that determines a
peace officer engaged in conduct that could render a peace officer
subject to suspension or revocation of certification by the
commission pursuant to Section 13510.8, regardless of the
discipline imposed.

(5) Any civil judgment or court finding against a peace officer
based on conduct, or settlement of a civil claim against a peace
officer or an agency based on allegations of officer conduct that

could render a peace officer subject to suspension or revocation
 of certification by the commission pursuant to Section 13510.8.

3 (b) By July 1, 2023, any agency employing peace officers shall
4 report to the commission any events described in subdivision (a)
5 that occurred between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2023.

6 (c) An agency employing peace officers shall make available 7 for inspection or duplication by the commission any investigation 8 into any matter reported pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision 9 (a), including any physical or documentary evidence, witness 10 statements, analysis, and conclusions, for no less than two years 11 after reporting of the finding or recommendation reported pursuant 12 to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), the final disposition of the 13 investigation reported pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision 14 (a), or the civil judgment or court finding reported pursuant to 15 paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), as applicable, whichever is latest. 16 (d) (1) In a case of separation from employment or appointment, 17 the employing agency shall execute and maintain an

affidavit-of-separation form adopted by the commission describing the reason for separation and shall include whether the separation is part of the resolution or settlement of any criminal, civil, or administrative charge or investigation. The affidavit shall be signed under penalty of perjury and submitted to the commission.

23 (2) A peace officer who has separated from employment or 24 appointment shall be permitted to respond to the affidavit-of-separation form, in writing, to the commission, setting 25 26 forth their understanding of the facts and reasons for the separation, 27 if different from those provided by the agency.

28 (3) Before employing or appointing any peace officer who has 29 previously been employed or appointed as a peace officer by 30 another agency, the agency shall contact the commission to inquire 31 as to the facts and reasons a peace officer became separated from 32 any previous employing agency. The commission shall, upon 33 request and without prejudice, provide to the subsequent employing 34 agency any information regarding the separation in its possession. 35 (4) Civil liability shall not be imposed on either a law 36 enforcement agency or the commission, or any of the agency's or 37 commission's agents, for providing information pursuant to this 38 section in a good faith belief that the information is accurate.

1 (e) (1) An agency employing a peace officer shall not enter into 2 an agreement with a peace officer that requires any of the

3 *following*:

4 (A) The agency to destroy, remove, or conceal a record of a 5 misconduct investigation.

6 (B) The agency to halt or make particular findings in a 7 misconduct investigation.

8 (C) The agency to otherwise restrict the disclosure of 9 information about an allegation or investigation of misconduct 10 pursuant to any provision of law, including, but not limited to, this 11 section, or Sections 832.7, 832.12, 1054.1, 13510.8, or 13510.85 12 of this code.

13 (2) A provision of an agreement inconsistent with this 14 subdivision is contrary to law and public policy and is void and 15 unenforceable.

16 (3) Notwithstanding any agreement described in this subdivision, 17 any events described in subdivision (a) that occurred after January 18 1, 2020, and any peace officer's separation from employment or 19 appointment after January 1, 2023, including the reason for the 20 separation and whether the separation was part of the resolution 21 or settlement of any charge or investigation, shall be reported to 22 the commission.

23 (e)

24 (f) The commission shall maintain the information reported 25 pursuant to this section, in a form determined by the commission, and in a manner that may be accessed by the subject peace officer. 26 any employing law enforcement agency of that peace officer, any 27 28 law enforcement agency that is performing a preemployment 29 background investigation of that peace officer, or the commission 30 when necessary for the purposes of decertification. This 31 information may be withheld from the subject peace officer if the 32 commission determines that disclosure pursuant to this section 33 may jeopardize an ongoing investigation, put a victim or witness 34 at risk of any form of harm or injury, or may otherwise create a risk of any form of harm or injury that outweighs the interest in 35 disclosure, until the risk of harm or injury is ended or mitigated 36 37 so that the interest in disclosure is no longer outweighed by the 38 interest in nondisclosure. Information that the commission releases 39 to an agency pursuant to this section that has been withheld from

the subject peace officer shall be kept confidential by the receiving
 agency.

3 (f)

4 (g) (1) The commission shall notify the head of the agency that 5 employs the peace officer of all of the following:

6 (A) The initiation of any investigation of that peace officer by 7 the division, unless that notification would interfere with the 8 investigation.

9 (B) A finding by the division, following an investigation or 10 review of the investigation, of grounds to take action against the 11 peace officer's certification or application.

12 (C) A final determination by the commission as to whether 13 action should be taken against a peace officer's certification or 14 application.

15 (D) An adjudication, after hearing, resulting in action against 16 an officer's certification or application.

(2) If the certificate of a peace officer is temporarily suspended
pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 13510.8, or revoked, the
commission shall also notify the district attorney of the county in
which the peace officer is or was employed of this fact.

(3) Each notification required by this subdivision shall includethe name of the peace officer and a summary of the basis for theaction requiring notification.

SEC. 4. The provisions of this act are severable. If any
provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity
shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given

27 *effect without the invalid provision or application.*

28 SEC. 5. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 2 and 29 3 of this act, which amend Section 832.7 and 13510.9 of the Penal

30 Code, furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision

31 (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the

32 purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of

33 public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings

34 of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph

35 (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California

36 *Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:*

37 This act furthers public access and transparency with respect

38 to certain records concerning the conduct of law enforcement39 officials.

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AB 1388

1	SECTION 1. Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 13545) is
2	added to Chapter 1 of Title 4 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, to read:
3	1
4	Article 4.5. Peace Officer Settlement Agreements
5	-
6	13545. A law enforcement agency shall not enter into a
7	settlement agreement with a peace officer who has a pending
8	complaint of misconduct with a term that requires the law

9 enforcement agency to keep the misconduct confidential.

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