

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021-2022 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 18

Introduced by Senator Rubio
Co-Sponsored by: Sen.Scott Wiener

October 1, 2025

An act to add section [no number yet], to the Government Code, relating to Public Safety. Requires Police & Fire Departments to publish annual reports summarizing use-of-force incidents, response times, and community complaints.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 18, as introduced, Rubio. Safety Data Public Access Act.

California law requires local government agencies such as police, sheriff, and fire departments to comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act, which mandates open public meetings and advance agenda posting. These agencies frequently collect data on emergency response times, police use-of-force incidents, and community complaints. Although some municipalities voluntarily publish this information online or in annual reports, no statewide regulation compels agencies to provide public access to these records.

The Act would require city and county police, sheriff, and fire departments to publish an annual online report summarizing emergency response times, use-of-force incidents, community complaints, and fire or rescue calls, using existing data. Each report must include a plain-language summary and be posted by March 1 for the previous year. The bill uses current resources, requires no new funding, and seeks to enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust.

Vote: Majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section [placeholder number] is added to the Government Code, to read:

(a) For purposes of this section:

1. "Agency" means a city or county police department, sheriff's office, or fire department.
2. "Use-of-force incident" means any instance in which law enforcement officers apply physical force, restraint, or other coercive measures on a person.
3. "Community complaint" means any formal complaint submitted by a member of the public regarding the conduct of public safety personnel.
4. "Emergency response time" means the time elapsed from receipt of a call for service to the arrival of the first responder on scene.

Sec. 2.

Each agency shall publish an annual report on its official website summarizing activities from the previous calendar year. The report must include:

1. Emergency response times by incident type.
2. Use-of-force incidents, including type of force used and any demographic data already collected.
3. Community complaints, including number received, type, and resolution.
4. Fire and rescue service calls, categorized by type (fire, medical, disaster response, etc.).

Each agency shall provide a plain-language summary of the report to ensure it is accessible to the general public.

(c) Reports must be posted **by March 1 of each year** for the prior calendar year.

Sec. 3.

The head of each agency, or a designated officer, is responsible for compiling, reviewing, and posting the report as required by this section.

Agencies shall ensure the report is **easily accessible from the homepage** of the official website and, where feasible, available in languages commonly spoken in the community.

Sec. 4.

Agencies shall confirm compliance with this section in writing to the appropriate state oversight office, such as the Department of Justice or State Auditor, on an annual basis.

Failure to comply will not result in a penalty but will be publicly disclosed to promote transparency.

Sect 5.

This act shall take effect **January 1 of the year following enactment.**