
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Jesse Arreguín, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 1100 **Hearing Date:** April 14, 2026
Author: Smallwood-Cuevas
Version: February 13, 2026
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: ML

Subject: *Grand juries: final reports*

HISTORY

Source: California Secretary of State

Prior Legislation: AB 1759 (Comm. on Accountability and Administrative Rev.), Ch. 145, Stats. of 2023

Support: Unknown

Opposition: None known

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to require court clerks to compile final grand jury reports and transfer the reports and responses to the State Archivist within 6 months of the end of the grand jury's term of service.

Existing law establishes that a grand jury is a body of the required number of persons returned from the citizens of the county before a court of competent jurisdiction, sworn to inquire of public offenses committed or triable within the county. (Pen. Code, § 888.)

Existing law sets forth the process by which a grand jury is impaneled. (Pen. Code, § 893 et seq.)

Existing law charges one grand jury in each county to investigate or inquire into civil county issues, such as the needs of county officers, including the abolition or creation of offices, the purchase, lease, or sale of equipment, or changes to the system of performing the duties of the agencies subject to investigation. (Pen. Code, § 888.)

Existing law requires civil grand juries to investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, or functions of the county. (Pen. Code, § 925.)

Existing law requires each grand jury to submit to the presiding judge of the superior court a final report of its findings and recommendations that pertain to county government matters during the fiscal or calendar year. Permits the report to be submitted for comment to responsible officers, agencies, or departments, when applicable. (Pen. Code, § 933, subd. (a).)

Existing law requires one copy of each final report, together with the responses, to be placed on file with the clerk of the court and remain on file in the office of the clerk. Requires the clerk to

immediately forward a true copy of the report and the responses to the State Archivist who must retain that report and all responses in perpetuity. (Pen. Code, § 933, subd. (b).)

This bill would instead require the clerk to compile all final reports and responses issued during the grand jury's term of service and to transfer the reports and responses to the State Archivist within 6 months of the end of the grand jury's term of service.

This bill clarifies that its provisions will not under any circumstances be construed as requiring the clerk of the court to create new or consolidated documents.

COMMENTS

1. Need For This Bill

The author writes:

SB 1100 is needed to modernize and strengthen California's records management system in support of government efficiency and accountability. The State Archives serve as the official repository for a state government's permanent records, responsible for collecting, preserving, and providing public access to documents of historical significance. SB 1100 clarifies and updates statutory requirements governing how civil grand jury reports and responses are submitted to the State Archives within the Secretary of State's office. Current law requires clerks of court to immediately forward final civil grand jury reports to the State Archivist upon finalization. SB 1100 establishes a consolidated submission process for civil grand jury reports and responses, ensuring clearer compliance, reducing routine administrative inquiries, and allowing the State Archives to manage records more efficiently. This bill also promotes more timely public access, improves coordination among courts, counties, and the State Archives, and ensures that records of civil grand jury oversight are preserved and accessible to future generations. It strengthens government operations by doing more with existing resources—improving performance without expanding bureaucracy.

2. Existing Law and the State Archive

The State Archives serve as the official repository for a state government's permanent records, responsible for collecting, preserving, and providing public access to documents of historical significance.

Civil grand juries are juries of citizens impaneled to investigate and report on civil county affairs, such as the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, or functions of the county. (Pen. Code, §§ 888, 925.)

Under existing law, each grand jury must submit to the presiding judge of the superior court a final report of its findings and recommendations that pertain to county matters during the fiscal or calendar year. (Pen. Code, § 933, subd. (a).) The report may be submitted for comment to responsible officers, agencies, or departments, whose duties are related to the subject of the report, when applicable.

One copy of each grand jury's final report, together with the responses, must be placed on file with the clerk of the court and remain on file in the office of the clerk. Under existing law, the clerk must "immediately" forward a true copy of the report and the responses to the State Archivist who must retain that report and all responses in perpetuity. (Pen. Code, § 933, subd. (b).)

The author submits that the word "immediately" in the existing language of Penal Code Section 933 creates an inefficient and sometimes confusing workflow for both county superior court clerks and archivists at the State Archives. Because multiple civil grand jury reports are submitted throughout the year and multiple responses are also submitted throughout the year, clerks of the court send the documents individually as they are received, rather than compiling complete sets of all reports and responses for fewer transfers per year.

3. The Effect of This Bill

This bill would instead require the clerk to compile all final reports and responses issued during the grand jury's term of service and to transfer the reports and responses to the State Archivist within 6 months of the end of the grand jury's term of service. The purpose of this change is to allow for the reports to be transmitted in bulk within six months, rather than individually as soon as they are received.

Additionally, this bill further clarifies that its provisions will not require the clerk of the court to create new or consolidated documents.

4. Argument in Support

The Secretary of State writes:

This straightforward reform will improve government efficiency, support digital transformation, and enhance public access to these important accountability documents.

Currently, Penal Code Section 933(b) requires county superior court clerks to forward civil grand jury reports and responses to the State Archivist "immediately" upon receipt. While well-intentioned, this requirement results in hundreds of piecemeal deliveries to the State Archives throughout the year from California's 58 counties. This creates significant operational challenges for both county clerks and my Archives staff, interrupting ongoing projects, complicating workflow planning, and preventing efficient implementation of our electronic records management system.

SB 1100 solves this problem by allowing county clerks to compile complete sets of reports and responses and transfer them annually within six months after a grand jury's term ends. This simple change will significantly reduce the number of transfers per year and enable digital file management. Most critically, this change does not delay public access to reports, as counties will continue to post them immediately upon release.