

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2528

Introduced by Assembly Member Chu

February 19, 2016

An act to amend Section 8547.5 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2528, as introduced, Chu. The California State Auditor.

Existing law, the California Whistleblower Protection Act requires the California State Auditor to administer the act and to investigate and report on improper governmental activities, as defined. Existing law requires the California State Auditor to establish a means for submission of allegations of improper governmental activity. Existing law also prohibits the California State Auditor from disclosing the identity of a person who provides information that results in an investigation, or of any person providing information in confidence to further an investigation, without obtaining the person's express permission.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8547.5 of the Government Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 8547.5. (a) The State Auditor shall create the means for the
- 4 submission of allegations of improper governmental activity ~~both~~
- 5 by transmission via mail or other carrier to a specified mailing

1 address and *by* electronic submission through an Internet Web site
2 portal. The State Auditor may request that a person submitting an
3 allegation provide his or her name and contact information and
4 provide the names and contact information for any persons who
5 could help to substantiate the claim. However, the State Auditor
6 shall not require any person submitting an allegation to provide
7 his or her name or contact information and shall clearly state on
8 the agency Internet Web site that this information is not required
9 in order to submit an allegation.

10 (b) Upon receiving specific information that any employee or
11 state agency has engaged in an improper governmental activity,
12 the State Auditor may conduct an investigation of the matter. The
13 identity of the person providing the information that initiated the
14 investigation, or of any person providing information in confidence
15 to further an investigation, shall not be disclosed without the
16 express permission of the person providing the information except
17 that the State Auditor may make the disclosure to a law
18 enforcement agency that is conducting a criminal investigation.